Saturday, January 22, 2011 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 36 / No. 45 / P18 www.inquirer.net Mobile Alert: Text INQ to 2899 (GLOBE/TM) or 4467 (SMART/SUN) Delivery Problem?

BUSINESS / B1
Net 'hot money' inflow hit $4.6B in 2010

SPORTS / A24
Top Open bets in; Henin exits

ZBU / C1
Proud to be an Ateneo Aakal

WORLD / A19
S. Korea Navy storms hijacked ship, kills pirates, rescues crew

Give Brillantes a chance, P-Noy tells victims' kin

By Marlon Ramos

GIVE the man a chance.

President Aquino has asked a group of survivors who lost loved ones in the November 2009 Maguindanao massacre not to be too bitter over the appointment of Sixto Brillantes to the top post of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Myrna Mirhanda, widow of Manila Bulletin correspondent Bong Mirhanda, yesterday said Mr. Aquino spoke with her and seven other next of kin of the massacre victims at a meeting in Mala...

APB to

Obama reveals he's plotting to run in '12

WASHINGTON, DC—US President Barack Obama passed the halfway point of his four-year term Thursday and revealed he is already plotting to win a second, boosted by a sudden upswing in popularity.

Obama's spokesperson Robert Gibbs divulged the secret deep within in Washington, saying that his boss

OBAMA, A13

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

DOJ report on Co slammed

De Lima protests cover-up allegations

By Leila B. Salaverria and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

UNRELIEF and dismay greeted news that the military had been cleared by a government fact-finding panel of involvement in the November 2010 killing of assistant lawmaker Leonard Co and two companions in a forest in Barangay, Leyte.

"The bottom line is we don't believe in the report," Darwin Flores, speaking for the Co family, said yesterday of the findings of a Department of Justice-National Bureau of Investigation (DOJ-NBI) panel.

"It was credible. Who can accept that kind of report? One thing glaring was that they were very selective in what to use from among the witnesses, accounts, to contribute with the military's version," Flores, Co's brother-in-law, said in a phone interview.

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Loretta Rosales said she was not ready to absolve the soldiers of the Army's 19th Infantry Battalion of the deaths of Co, forest guard Jeffrelon Cotton and Cabinet Julius Enerosmo, who were en...

DOJ REPORT, A11

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday protested allegations made by colleagues of slain lawmaker Leonard Co that the government has finding report clearing the military of liability in his and his two companions' deaths was a cover-up.

Nevertheless, De Lima said that "if warranted," she could review the findings of the Department of Justice-National Bureau of Investigation (DOJ-NBI) panel that looked into the killing of Co, forest guard

DE LIMA, A11

BACK STOPS HERE President Aquino talks about the country's problems particularly the importation corruption with members of the PGH Medical Alumni Association

2 in car theft murder fall

DEALING WITH DEALERS PNP Director General Raul Bacalzo and other police officers meet with car dealers in Camp Crame to discuss security. The committee oversees dealers ask for business or their application for gun permits for self-defense.

Dominguez brothers tagged as masterminds

By Tarra Quismundo, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlon Garcia, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Michael Punzalan, Manila

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police on Friday announced a breakthrough in their probe into the murder of car dealer Vernon Evangelista with the arrest of two suspects whom they hoped would provide leads to the slaying of Emerson Lozano, another car dealer.

"We hope this would help us get leads to the other case," Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Alan Purisima said, referring to the murder of Lozano and his driver, Ernanie Sendi. He said four other suspects in the Evangelista killing were being hunted by the police.

In a separate development, police yesterday arrested eight alleged members of the so-called 'Bandol Bandol Gang" in Tanauan,Cavite, after a four-province manhunt. The gang is allegedly involved in cas theft, hijacking, robbery and holdup.

Police said they had yet to find a link between the group arrested in Cavite and those behind the murders of Lozano and Evangelista, whose bodies were

2 IN CAR, A2

Senate to grill prosecutors on bribe claims

By Christine V. Bagaoisan and Leila B. Salaverria

NOW, IT'S the prosecutors' turn to be on the defensive.

The Senate blue ribbon committee is set to grill special prosecutors involved in the plea bargain that led to the release on bail of ex-military comptroller Carlos Garcia, who allegedly stole P303 million from government coffers.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona II, committee chair, yesterday said he hearings set for Thursday were made would look in to allegations that the prosecutors had been bribed into accepting the plea bargain.

Citing information from Solicitor General Joel Cadiz, the senator reminded the prosecutors that they were under the Office of the President, not the Ombudsman, and as such, they could lose their jobs as a result of the deal.

"We will determine if there was

SENATE, A12

Wiretaps of Berlusconi's sexcapades captivate Italians

ROME—For gossip-loving Italians, it's a feast. To others, it may be more than they ever wanted to know about their Premier Silvio Berlusconi, his purported sexual appetites and parties with hapless girls—or, in one case, with a woman told to dress in a cop nurse's uniform.

Italian newspapers are filled with intercepted transcripts of wiretaps ordered by

WIRETAPS, A12

DELA FUENTE: Double whammy

LTFRB cancels bus franchise of De la Fuente's 200-fleet firm

By Paolo G. Montecillo

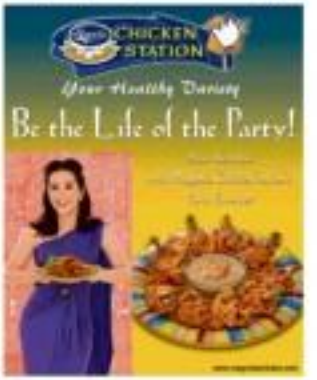
THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has canceled the franchise of Philippine Corinthian Liner Corp., a bus company owned by singer Gloria de la Fuente, for participating in a transport strike.

Two other smaller bus companies also had their franchises suspended over the Nov. 11, 2010, transport strike, said LTFRB board member Manuel Iway.

The strike, which was called on Monday, left thousands of Metro Manila commuters stranded. *(See Ethical Wire) Before on Page A8.)*

The LTFRB canceled the certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) of De la Fuente's bus company, which operates 102

LTFRB, A8



Microbes turn garbage into fertilizer in 3 hrs

BAGUIO CITY—A microorganism that helps speed up the process of decay and consumes harmful microbes in organic wastes could help Baguio and other urban communities deal with the problem of garbage disposal, according to its Japanese inventor.

Shinichi Shimizu obtained a patent in 2005 for his Environmental Recycling System (ERS), giving him the license to propagate the microorganisms, called the "Shimizu microbes," and the apparatus that allows these microorganisms to act on the household microbes (bad ones in trash. The machine converts biodegradable garbage into fertilizer and animal feed.

Shimizu was in Baguio City last Monday to inspect two ERS machines that were sold in 2010 to the city government which has decided to adopt his system to deal with Baguio's mounting garbage disposal problem.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said Baguio produces 64 tons of biological wastes daily. According to city government data, 26 tons of raw waste come from the city's market.

From 2008 to 2010, Baguio spent almost P200-million hauling garbage to a sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac, some 186

MICROBES, A13

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Senate rice probe welcomed

NDF consultants' list a puzzle to gov't panel

By Dona Z. Pazolugan

THE LIST of 17 "consultants" that the National Democratic Front (NDF) peace negotiating panel has asked the government to release to clinch the release of rebel leaders who are not in detention but are in hiding.

According to Teresita Ang-See, the presidential adviser on the peace process, the authorities would have to verify the status of those in the NDF list of consultants.

"What is their status, are they really under detention? As far as I know some of them are not under detention. They are in hiding. Where are they detained? We don't know," she said.

Ang-See said the government panel would request the legal process where the issue of the release of NDF consultants is concerned.

Rule of law

"We are in a rule of law. Even if you agree to that, you can't just open detention doors. The release of detained persons goes through [a process]," she said.

She said the NDF has added three more names to their initial list of 14 consultants that it wants covered by security guarantees during peace talks with the communist insurgents.

Following a preliminary talks last week, the government and the NDF, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, have agreed to start formal peace talks from Feb. 15 to 21 in Oslo, Norway.

In a joint communiqué, the peace panels said they agreed to work for a seven-day truce and the release of detained NDF consultants.

Jalosjos said the nominees that the list included Tirso Alcantara, the New People's Army (NPA) head for Southern Tagalog, who was sentenced last Jan. 4, although she has not seen the list.

"Alcantara is the only one we know who has been taken to a hospital and is being taken care of," she said.

The Army has strongly opposed the release of Alcantara whom it described as the communist rebels' chief planner for offensive operations in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions.

"We don't believe he's on the Joint Under Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees) list and we don't believe he should be part of the peace process. He's not the kind who will talk peace," said Army spokesperson Col. Romeo Brawner Jr.

At the time of his capture, Alcantara was facing 31 charges, mostly for murder, including that of former NPA chief Romulo Kintanar.

Alcantara is recuperating from an operation in a military hospital inside the Fort Bonifacio Army headquarters. He was operated on to remove a clip in his left leg after he was hit in the buttocks while trying to escape.

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG SAID it welcomed initiatives of the Senate blue ribbon committee to look into the questionable transactions worth billions of pesos of the National Food Authority (NFA) during the Arroyo administration.

Sen. Franklin Drilon on Thursday said President Aquino's request on the alleged anomalous transactions in the NFA provides a "solid basis" for the blue ribbon committee to look into the matter.

"Certainly it's worth looking into. You know the NFA is one of the most difficult bodies financially in the budget," Drilon said.

'Recycled issue'

Addressing criticisms that the alleged anomalous transactions represent a "recycled issue" against the previous administration, Carandang said it takes time to gather information on such matters.

The overrepresentation of rice under the Arroyo administration was one of the first issues tackled by the Aquino government when it took over.

"Well, it takes some time to gather the information and, again, that is one of the things that we want to resolve because we gave a huge subsidy to the NFA, around P177 billion pesos, the previous year, if I am not mistaken," Carandang said.

Carandang said the government is looking at both the cases of the questionable transactions of the NFA and the issue of making the agency more sustainable.

"Number one, overimportation. Who is behind it, how much did we lose? Number two, we also want to look at how we can restore the NFA in a way that doesn't cost so much?" Carandang said.

On two tracks

"So it's proceeding on two tracks and I guess one track sometimes goes faster than the other," he added.

On criticisms that the administration should identify the perpetrators of the alleged illegal transactions, Carandang replied, "That's exactly our intention."

He, nonetheless, said that the government was still gathering evidence to firm up its case.

"We've gotten the broad strokes of what happened. We need to get more facts to substantiate some of the allegations that are being made. When you get the facts then you'll know how to proceed from there. If this was a criminal case, we're just in the case build-up," Carandang said.

Flawed process

Meanwhile, the Rice Watch and Action Network (RI) and its member-groups are pressing for immediate reform in the NFA and for Congress to come up with policy recommendations to address what they called the "flawed process" of rice importation.

Rep. Lorenzo Jessica Reyes Cantos, chief house committee on agriculture chairperson Mark Llandro L. Mendoza and house committee on agriculture chairperson Rep. Francis Dingdong to conduct a joint congressional investigation and ensure the new agency will benefit farmers by increasing its palay support price rather than importing rice.

"It is grossly disheartening to learn that the government lost billions of pesos in a scam when our farmers are barely able to survive after the series of calamities that struck our farms since last year. We need no longer to goodwise decision-making body within the NFA that is transparent and has significant representation of rice farmers," said Cantos.

P20-B overprice

Cantos said the P20 billion overpriced amount, according to NFA audit findings, should have been used to feed the small water impounding projects and extension work under the P30.06 program to address rice self-sufficiency in 2013.

The 0A law and farm output contracted in 2010 due to bad weather.

Imports continue to pour in about the limits in various parts of the country being ravaged by floods as planting started as early as December last year.

The group believes the importation became unbearable to corruption because the lack of impositions over the past three years went through government to government negotiations and the price of rice acquired was not lower than the prevailing world market price.

"Congress should review government to government rice supply contracts that may result in higher procurement prices, using up the government's already limited resources. The government's resolve to follow the righteous path will be put in test with the resolution of this nagging issue of corruption in rice importation," said Cantos. *With a report by Rhea T. Olchondra*

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AMNESTY REQUIREMENT

Trillanes, other rebel soldiers need to take oath

By Dona Z. Pazolugan

SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV and other rebel soldiers who availed themselves of amnesty are required to take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution before they are finally absolved of liability for rising up against the past administration.

Defense Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino, a member of the five-man ad hoc amnesty committee, said the first batch of approved amnesty applications will be issued next week.

Covered by the amnesty are officers and soldiers, including Trillanes, who applied after the Department of National Defense (DND) opened the processing of applications last Jan. 3.

"All those given amnesty will take the oath or pledge of allegiance. It is a requirement," Batino said in a news conference Friday.

Oath of allegiance

"In fact, there is already a plan for the taking of the pledge of allegiance next week. The schedule is being worked out. We think those will be destined coming up early next week regarding the application," he said.

He said the oath will be said in the presence of Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, who will act on the recommendations turned in by the committee.

As of Friday, 139 rebel soldiers including 59 officers have applied for amnesty which was offered by President Aquino to those involved in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the February 2006 Marines standoff and the November 2007 Peninsula Manila siege.

The implementing rules and regulations required rebel soldiers to admit that their participation in the incidents "constituted a violation of the Constitution, criminal laws and the Articles of War."

Taking an oath of allegiance was not included in the implementing rules and regulations of the amnesty.

TRILLANES

'Part of procedure'

Batino said the oath was merely "part of the procedure agreed upon by the committee."

"It is a requirement. If you will note in the process in the Secretariat, one of documents signed by an applicant is an oath of allegiance which he will verbalize in a ceremony to be scheduled," Batino said.

Batino said he hoped the taking of an oath of allegiance would not be a form of ostentation.

"The issue of the oath of allegiance is very straightforward. The individual taking the oath will affirm his loyalty to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines and duly-constituted authorities of the government," Batino added.

"It is a reaffirmation that we in the department would do every week in the flag ceremony. They are just having required to do something that is commonly undertaken by students, government officials and all citizens of the country," he stressed.

The amnesty committee started its deliberations on Thursday since the 15-day period for filing any opposition to amnesty applications has lapsed.

Sailboat with 5 Americans missing

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard (PCG) has joined its United States counterpart in the ongoing search for a twin-hulled sailboat with five American passengers feared missing in waters off Cuba.

PCG commandant Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo said the "Pacific Apple," a 38-foot catamaran, left the Manila Yacht Club in Cavite on Jan. 6 and was scheduled to arrive in the Philippines not later than Jan. 16.

The PCG started looking for the vessel after it failed to arrive on schedule and to contact relatives.

Grand Guard Cruises said Antonio Ayala, 61, a businessman with jurisdictions on the Philippine Sea, have also been directed to join the search and rescue operations.

The passengers—four men and one woman—were from the US East Coast, according to the PCG. One of the men was a Filipino-American who used to serve in the US Air Force.

Arsenio Ayala

FARMERS PROTEST

Anti-riot policemen block protesters as they gather for a rally in front of the Supreme Court to petition for the resolution of the case involving Hacienda Luisita, a large sugar plantation owned by the family of President Aquino. The protesters, mostly farmers and their families, were also commemorating the Hacienda Massacre, the violent dispersal of farmers' protest 24 years ago near Hacienda that killed 13 protesters, mostly farmers. (Story on Page A2)

DOJ chief opposes death penalty revival

By Nikko Dizon and Gil Cabacungan

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima is against the imposition of the death penalty despite the recent crimes committed in the country.

In a press conference on Thursday, De Lima said such a move would be "revenge, awe" for the country in terms of human rights, standards and there was little evidence it would deter such crimes.

She also refuted an argument made earlier by President Aquino that there was the danger that the country's flawed justice system would send the wrong people to their deaths.

"We are not sure if we send the right people to jail or that are here the right people. It would be difficult to make a mistake in the death penalty," she said.

The Philippines, she stressed, was a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of the United Nations.

"One of our commitments when we signed that protocol was that we are not supposed to reimpose the death penalty".

She also said she did not adhere to convictions that the death penalty would be a deterrent to heinous crimes.

"I don't think there is empirical data that would prove that," she said.

A former chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) before her appointment as Justice Secretary, De Lima said she has "always been against the death penalty."

"I am a human rights advocate," she said.

Nonetheless, De Lima said those calling for the reimposition of the death penalty cannot also be blamed as they want to see their call every time there is a spate of heinous crimes.

"But the human rights community would be hard put to endorse that and they would always oppose that... and I happen to be part of that community," De Lima said.

As the House of Representatives, majority and minority are out to unseated calls for the reimposition of the death penalty.

Deputy Majority Leader and Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said: "The reimposition of the death penalty will not deter crime. It is effective law enforcement, police work and the certainty of being caught and punished that will deter criminal acts."

Tañada is one of the authors of the bill which repealed the death penalty law.

Minority Leader and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman said these moves to revive the death penalty were an "unthinking, knee-jerk reactions."

Lagman said that data showed that in the years when capital punishment was in force in the country, heinous crimes did not subside.

Lagman said a study conducted by the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) showed that a great majority of death row convicts knew that they would face death for the crimes they committed.

Noy cited in HK for political PR

MALACAÑANG has announced that President Aquino is this year's recipient of Public Affairs Asia's Gold Standard Award for Political Communications, beating longtime Singapore leader Lee Kuan Yew for the title.

Communications and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang said Mr. Aquino won over Lee, Singapore's first prime minister and now the city-state's minister mentor, and Surinder Sasi, India's minister of information and broadcasting.

Public Affairs Asia is a network of senior government officials, public affairs and corporate communications professionals operating across the Asia Pacific region.

Last year, the gold standard for political communications award went to Indonesia President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for his work in addressing corruption in Indonesia through his Government Reform Committee.

Carandang said the President was recognized "for his efforts to put government politics, from online, specifically the Presidential Communications Operations Office's efforts to put all national government communications to the government online."

Mr. Aquino's speeches, presidential memos and details of his official activities are posted online on the garrison's gospels and can readily be accessed by the public.

Carandang added that President Aquino was also recognized for his ability to communicate his message "Kung Walang Corrupt, Walang Mahirap (If there's no corruption, no one will be poor)," both domestically and internationally. — Norman Bordadora

Maynilad ends Parañaque's long drought

Matthew Callao has never known what it meant to have continuous running water in his home. As far back as he can remember, his family always had to buy water from the water vendors — trucks that brought water to the houses in their community. His mother would then fill several drums with their two dogs' supply of water, and they had to ration among the members of their family. Whenever he took a bath, he had to fetch water from the storage drums and bring just enough to the bathroom. He also had to make sure that he was able to rinse his hair with just two "tabos" (ladles) of water. Otherwise, he would have to fetch more water from the storage drum outside their home.

In many homes across Parañaque, low water pressure was an everyday predicament until work zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. came along. Before Maynilad took over the service area, water was not always available, and water services were rotated among the larger subdivisions. Families could not enjoy conveniences such as the use of a shower head because of low water pressure. Others had to source their water from water dealers who charged a premium. Households spent as much as P1,000 a month for their water supply.

Relief came to Parañaque residents when Maynilad extended its water supply operations in Parañaque to 24 hours, ending more than two decades of problematic water supply in the area.

Maynilad began providing some 88,000 customers in Parañaque with 24-hour supply at improved water pressure levels starting last year. The service level improvements were made possible after the water company completed its new Villamor Pumping Station and Reservoir. This P475 million facility can store up to 10 million liters of water, which can then be released to customers during peak demand.

In all, 18 areas in Parañaque now have 24-hour water supply. These include Multinational Village, Merville, Moonwalk, Don Bosco, Marcelo Green, Sun Valley, Baclaran, Tambo, Vitalez, Don Galo, La Huerta, Sto. Niño, Brgy. 201, Wawa, Manuyo, San Martin de Porres, Sucat, Dr. Santos, Tambo, Dongal

Farmers press SC to resolve Hacienda Luisita case

By Nikko Dizon

FARMERS OF Hacienda Luisita, the vast sugar plantation in Tarlac province owned by the family of President Aquino, yesterday rallied outside the Supreme Court building in Manila to launch their crusade/cry to the resolution of the land reform case pending before the high court.

Joined by families of the 1987 Mendiola massacre victims, the Luisita farmers also sent a letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona, to reiterate their "urgent appeal for the speedy resolution of the Hacienda Luisita case."

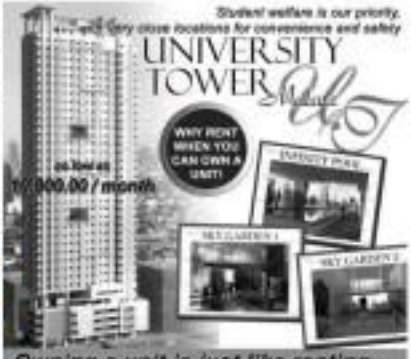
"It has been more than four years now since the Hacienda Luisita Inc. brought the issue to the Supreme Court and it's more than five months now since the Supreme Court conducted oral arguments to clarify matters pertinent to the SDO (stock distribution option) in Hacienda Luisita. Laymen as we are, we see that there are no more issues left to be constituted as to prevent the Supreme Court from issuing a decision," the farmers said in the letter.

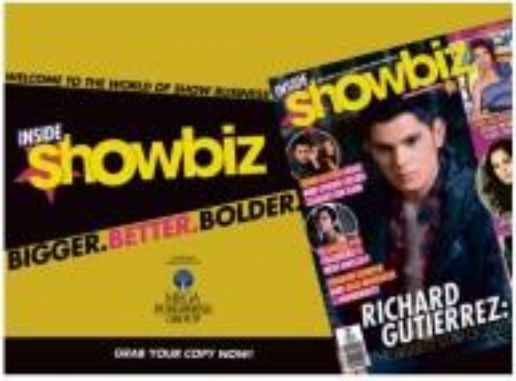
It was signed on their behalf by Leo Bala, acting chairman of the United Luisita Workers Union, and Felix Nalupa, president of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid ng Asyenda Luisita.

The farmers noted that they had sent two other letters of appeal asking the Supreme Court to decide on the case while then lawyer Noel also filed several urgent motions seeking the same speedy resolution.

Corona had said in a foreign journalists' forum last Thursday that the Supreme Court would soon be issuing a decision on the case between the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI).

In 2006, the HLI had asked the court to stop the DAR through the Presidential Agrarian Reform Committee from distributing parcels of Luisita land to the farmers after declaring the company's stock distribution option illegal.





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2 in car theft murder fall; Dominguez brods tagged

From page A1

burned and found in separate areas in Central Luzon last week.

In Malacañang, President Aquino ordered the Philippine National Police to intensify its campaign against car thieves.

"There was an instruction to make sure that the situation would no longer worsen," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Agnimen Cruz said in a Palace press briefing.

Police in Central Luzon said the two suspects in the Evangelista case—Alfredo Mendiola, who went by the alias "Sterling," and Ruben Baradas, purportedly an accessory to the crime—surrendered to the police in San Fernando at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Pantaleon identified the four suspects still at large as the brothers Roger and Raymond Dominguez, a certain Joel, said to be a mechanic, and the supposed gunman who went by the alias "Bobby."

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Continuing indictment

EDITORIAL

FROM THE time the grisly details of the Maguindanao massacre of 32 journalists first hogged local and international headlines in November 2009, five more members of the Philippine press have been killed. Among them was Davao newsman Nestor Bedolido, a writer for a local weekly newspaper who was gunned down in Digos City in June last year.

Unlike his luckless peers, however, whose murders have yet to be resolved, Bedolido's alleged gunman, Initiative Manobanyan, was apprehended in October. He formally confessed to his crime in an affidavit and, more startlingly, pointed to two powerful provincial officials as the brains behind the killing.

Without equivocation, Manobanyan named Gov Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur and Hagonoy Mayor Benjo Fernandez as having jointly ordered Bedolido's killing. The reported motive: is both straightforward and pleasome: The slain newsman was a former editor of the Digos Times, a local paper owned by Cagas. For years, he was Cagas' "PR man," but the two had a falling out and Bedolido then transferred his services to Cagas' main political rival, Davao del Sur Rep. Claude Bautista.

Was Bedolido in possession of information that might have compromised his former boss? Or was the rubout simply a grudge brought to its most grievous conclusion? What was Fernandez's role in the crime?

It has been three months, but as the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines recently pointed out, these questions remain unanswered because nothing much has happened to the investigation. No charges have been filed. Cagas and Fernandez have yet to be arraigned and the state of forced preventive suspension has to be set. This, despite the "iron case" of the slaughter clearly and unflinchingly clearly by name the alleged criminal masterminds, and thereby setting this case immediately apart from others of its kind.

"In most killings of journalists, there are no witnesses and hence it is very difficult for the cases to move forward," said lawyer Adel Tamano, counsel of the NUJP and of the son of Bedolido. "However, in this case the killer has turned himself in to the police, executed an affidavit admitting his guilt, and explicitly stated that Governor Cagas ordered the killing."

Despite the enormity of the Maguindanao tragedy, it was hoped that the massacre for which members of the Ampatuan family are now charged would have at least served a purpose by becoming a turning point in the nation's indifference to and tolerance for the murder of its journalists. While individual newsmen had been shot at, harassed or ambushed over the years, the brazen, wholesale elimination of an entire group of them represented a horrifying new low in criminality here and abroad, and immediately catapulted the Philippines to the top of the list of the world's most dangerous countries for men and women in the media.

That shameful status, if not the harrowing, game-changing nature of the mass slaughter itself, should have prodded the Aquino administration to pursue with greater zeal and dispatch the resolution of these killings, and the institution of measures that would ensure greater safety and security for the country's working journalists. Anything less than that helps perpetuate—and, with each new unsolved murder, expand—the "culture of impunity" that has made the country a graveyard for many in the profession, and a perversion of the cherished national image of itself as having one of freest presses in the world.

In the case of the Bedolido murder, the accusation is loud and clear: Cagas and Fernandez are at the receiving end of the main suspect's accusing finger; even if their counsel-of-all-trades can only offer the defense of alibi to refute the accusation. ("In criminal law, alibi is a weak defense," said Tamano.) So what is the Department of Justice waiting for? Why are there no formal charges filed yet against Cagas and Fernandez three months after their alleged crime?

If the whoels of justice suspiciously take their time over it this, a seemingly clear-cut case with a sworn confession in hand and the masterminds identified, then woe to those unlucky enough to have died by an assailant's hand with no witnesses or candid leads.

The unchecked killing of journalists in this country is a continuing indictment of the government's inability, or unwillingness, to face up to this scourge, which is often enough perpetrated by those in power. The Aquino administration needs to do more—or, sooner than it might wish, it will find its hands bloodied with its own Maguindanao massacre.

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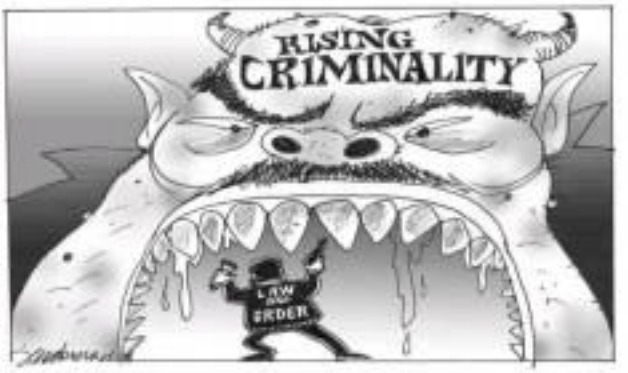

Scent of jasmine?

VIEWPOINT

Joem L. Mercado

FIRST, PRETTY Minor Cannot swearing on your computer screen: "It free press—not be good or bad, but, now remains, without freedom a press would never be anything but bad."

Now, this through the "Freedom of the Press 2016" survey has released by Freedom House. Since 1980, this body monitored ups and downs of media liberty in 195 countries and territories.

There, remains the "parity-low" ranking given to us: the Philippines in Tunisia's institute of millennial-year holiday, coincidentally the still ongoing "Jasmine Revolution."

"Four freedom declined for the eighth consecutive year," the report asserts. "[That] produced a global landscape in which only one in six people live in countries with a free press."

"The Philippines received a downward trend arrow, and (a) ranking of partly free." This is due to "general decline in the rule of law in Mindanao," President Duterte's stronghold. Specifically, the murder of 57 civilians—32 of whom were journalists.

"The Ampatuans are to the dark for the Maguindanao massacre," Rebel Gonzales points out. "Datu Unsay Municipal Arroyo thinks any threats for media," she writes. See the well-high-scoring credentials were from there."

"The positive momentum that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall has stalled, and in some cases reversed," adds the 2016 study. "The major backwards trends in 2016 were in new democracies like Hungary, the Philippines, Senegal and South Africa are particularly disturbing... Journalists in many countries can no longer do their job without fear of repercussions."

"Duterte" which voted in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Philippines and Fiji. This begin also continues to be the home of two of the survey's poorest performers, North Korea and Burma, plus the world's largest poor performer China."

"Globalization of censorship by countries such as China, and international bodies such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference promote authoritarian norms on freedom of expression."

Those are the world's 10 worst rated countries: Belarus, Sudan, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. "In these states, the press acts as a mouthpiece for the regime. Concerted efforts to withhold information or severely punish dissent is standard..."

That was the case of Tunisia too. For 23 years, the late strongman-president of Presidente Ben Ali gagged the press in ways Duvalsamid likewise would have envied.

Ben Ali's regs allowed mockery of only one object of the opposition weekly Al-Mawkif to such extent. "Even more ironic than an ideological system, like the process by that constitutional regime against years of "newspaper." Fear of arrest or mistreatment led to self-censorship. Independent media remained tolerated from the "to [illegible] Press regime).

Government shoot more than 300 newsmen into exile, a rally by the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists reveals. At torturer's hits freedoms remained serious injuries for a BBC interview that discussed intimidation of media, some documented enforcement on issues related to Ben Ali's wife, Leila Trabelsi, the Tunisia version of the Imelda WOOD," Times of India reported.

All rose has slumped with the still-ongoing Jasmine Revolution. Tunisia has been crippled by terrorist attacks, the media have been emptied of with undercover reporting. "We never see even able to ask critical questions to any of the officials we wrote ago," marvels journalist Sadia Bartouma.

He is this the end of a nightmare? Filipinos yesterday asked after Ben Ali dismantled the Islamic dictatorship. Tunisian journalists working for the Dar Al Assnaa media group, which publishes three newspapers, demanded the resignation of their editors in chief.

"They were appointed by the former regime, and they were suffocating our freedom," Rania Bahlous, a journalist at Dar Al Assnaa's Echourouk paper told BBC. "We are seeing others too escape losing freedom of speech that existed as in the past."

Part of the Jasmine Revolution's outcome will be helped by media—not by corrupting cyberspace capacity to rip down censorship by decrees.

Underground radio, a samizdat press and site-centers vaulted Switzerland Internet page on the press. Enough, it was hoped, to broadcast that peaceful rebellion. Five government cell phones appeared on seats after People Power I.

In 2001, Filipinos became the first in the country's wage to revolutions with cell phones—text-length brevity, noted Viewpoint in "Let a thousand cell phones bloom." (Inquirer, 7/28/01) They "provided the first real use of wireless messaging." Former Estrogold writers in Tampa today, "It was Social Revolution."

Seven million Chinese lurked cell phones in 1998. A 10-fold explosion resulted to 200 million subscribers by 2003. Worldwide customer users. Today, over 600 million Chinese—approximately the Philippines' population.

Remember one of the region's highest literacy rates. And 24 out of every 100 Tunisians had access to the Net. And one out of 10 are Facebook users. And that's using them to the max.

Filipinos have a niche in the progress whether the Jasmine Revolution will ripple one. Over two million overseas Filipino workers are spread throughout a region where suicide presidents fee (illegible).

Tunisia Mohsen, 23, had been president for three decades in a routine fight. Mohamed Ghalbuli has ruled Libya for 41 years. International of mentality freer more in nations that Fidel James of terrorism, and opposites only to mouthpiece of the cyberspace media.

Not all people power results have happy-ever-after endings. The Berlin Jesus blockpierced the Saffron Revolution. And Colombians resisted a similar revolt. One can only wish Tunisian journalists had the best of luck in the future.

(Email: joemlmercado@gmail.com.)

Binay the people's watchdog?

GET REAL

Sultan Gallor-Monzon

ONE ISSUE where the PDP-Laban, Vice President Jejomar Binay's party, is demanding, as it "will always demand," transparency—that be the chief consideration of the Aquino administration, as he is the second highest elected official in the land.

While we know that the party convention set by member what in trade terms, Binay's spokesperson tries to be more subtle, but concerns no even more offensive spin when he says that his principal can work with anyone "as long as the President fulfills his campaign promises to the people."

The reserved message of that statement seems to be that Binay is the people's watchdog in the regime administration, self-appointed or not. Worse, albeit it is in "to bring on" to function, it would seem that Binay's presence in P-Noy's Cabinet is conditional on P-Noy's performance—it is an honor conferred on the latter, and will be withdrawn if it was bestowed.

Let's just make a reality check here, please. In the first place, not even a year after the election, it seems a tad too soon to conveniently forgotten that Binay was not the President's running mate, even if there was an earlier complaint—it shake it took as if he were. Thus, that he was elected vice president does not obligate the President or appoint him to any executive position. He already has one—having been elected to it. It is actually more likely that Binay and his campaigners lobbied intensely for the position he now grabs. So here is a case in which it is more than fair to say that status is being staid' troublemakers take right hand man, or beyond logic.

If anyone should be grateful to anyone, it seems to be there logical to conclude that Binay should be grateful that he was appointed as a Cabinet position. Joseph Estrada, with whom Binay has (and whose councils were thumped in favor of Arroyo's candidacy. Against, did not lose as well while serving as vice president with Fidel Ramos, under the same circumstances (different party cabinet), because he was not given a Cabinet level position. And Binabale

Binay's campaign for the presidency in 2016 is his own business, a matter of his political ambition. But he should not be allowed to use his position as an excuse to run for president in the campaign and then use his campaign promises as an excuse to run for president in the campaign and then use his campaign promises as an excuse to run for president in the campaign and then use his campaign promises

2010, according to SWS

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

SURVEYS At January Each January, Social Weather Stations, in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management's Policy Center (AIPC), reviews the past year, according to our surveys. The 2011 SWS Annual Survey Review, the 11th since 2002, was publicly presented yesterday, Jan. 21, at the SWS Conference Center in Makati.

It began by recalling that a year ago (after the "made in Quiapo" firing), presidential candidate Manny Villar's approval was at Jan., 26; 2010). Nov. 13 points, down from 50 points in Sept. 2009. SWS is an independent and nonprofit social research institution. We remain that in our belief that Social Weather Stations and all its officers remain ever so true-minded in delivering true and nonpartisan service to the Philippine public. "Til success, SWS ever stands, and remains! Salud sobresalang sa lahat ng mga propesyonal sa mga, since the time of President Cory Aquino.

The election race. Election years are when our survey researchers should prove themselves. In the presidential race, SWS's first survey was conducted in early May showed that Noynoy's initial big lead in 2009 narrowed up to February 2010, but then remained strongly and was no longer threatened.

In the vice-presidential race, Jejomar Binay started ahead of Mar Roxas, but Roxas caught up, taking several place from Loren Legarda in April, and tying Binay Roxas for first place by early May. This momentum made his victory in May 10 no surprise to many observers.

In each May 2010, 94 percent of voters were aware of election surveys, a jump from 86 percent in early May 2007. As in 2007, relatively few voters (15 percent) said the surveys had influenced them, while a majority (56 percent) said they were for fun. Moreover, those who were for fun believed in them.

The **TFS/SWS exit poll.** For the first time in Philippine history, a statistical sample of voters was polled in the open, at least 50 meters (a legal requirement) from voting centers (VCs). From 2007 considerably more than 1,000 interviews were supposed to satisfy statistical standards, and 12,373 were.

The TFS/SWS exit poll's average absolute difference from Comelec percentages proved to be only 0.404 of a point in the presidential count, and only 0.599 of a point in the vice-presidential count. Both were impressive. Even the largest discrepancy, 1.5 percentage points for Binay, was small.

Satisfaction ratings. Noynoy's net satisfaction rating (% satisfied minus % dissatisfied) was +59 (Jan. 26; 2010), a very good score. It declined to +50 in Sept. 2010, but still in a comparable and respectable social research institution. We remain firm in our belief that Social Weather Stations and all its officers remain ever so true-minded in delivering true and nonpartisan service to the Philippine public. "Til success, SWS ever stands, and remains! Salud sobresalang sa lahat ng mga propesyonal sa mga, since the time of President Cory Aquino.

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Idle amid acute need for their service

KASS 16C Bayan, a national association of community health nurses and people's health advocates, says "volunteerism" as an offshoot of the unregulated proliferation of nursing graduates, which compliments the government's tabled regular policy that has numerous negative "commonality" to pretend out to the taxpayer's fun. It criticized, the demand for Filipino nurses in hospitals abroad has significantly declined leading to a glut of nursing graduates (that the country's health system is unable to absorb).

Subsequently has now become an added source for non-registered nurses who, despite being eligible for entry level positions, are made to work first as "volunteers" or enroll in supervised "training" programs in exchange for employment and/or training certificates that give little assistance of being hired. They perform regular nursing tasks and augment shortage of nursing staff in many hospitals due to "volunteers" they are not protected from possible work accident fatalities. Also, because of this available cheap labor pool, hospitals have gained leverage against health workers in their demand for living wages and better work conditions.

The irony is, while there are thousands of able-though-qualified nurses, many remain unemployed or be underemployed and deprived of even basic health care service. Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said that plantilla positions for nurses in the public health system are already filled up; the ban is, there is an added need for more nurses and other health professionals to serve in the communities and to generally ill-equipped and under-staffed government public hospitals.

Despite the obvious need for their services, many nurses are unemployed. The national health budget remains very low as compared to the growing needs of the increasing population and our worsening health and economic conditions.

Many more—including for us lawyers—think of the "volunteerism for a fee" scheme that has been going on for some time, Health Secretary Enrique Ona should call oversight for a stop to this illegal, unethical and exploitative practice. At the same time, the DOH should provide employment opportunities for nurses, with corresponding professional development and advancement programs. His/Health, for its part, must also "deploy" assigned to Rural Service, will provide for an 19,000 monthly allowance and possibly an additional 35,000 from the local governments unit. This falls short of the 200 anticipations (P24,000 per month) for the nurses, as stipulated in the Philippine Nursing Law of 2002, which is unimplemented indefinite.

The government should adequately increase the national health budget allocations to ensure quality health care for its people, while providing just compensation for nurses and other health workers who take care of the people's health.

—ELEUTON G. SELARCO, AB, Secretary General
Kass 16c Bayan (Association of Community Health Nurses and People's Health Advocates)
kass.ph@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Acceptance doesn't mean papers OK'd

THIS EDITORIAL reference to the article published in the business's Jan. 12 issue titled "Visas will give FDA license" which stated that "under the amendments, the FDA will not even allow an envoy to apply for a license if it does not meet the agency's technical requirements."

By clarification, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Philippines does accept application based on the completeness of documentary requirements, but such acceptance should not be considered as pre-approval of the product.

—SUZETTE B. LUZ, MD, FPPSEM
acting director-IC
Food and Drug Administration
FDA Bldg., Filipino Commercials City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Rebels defend attacks against gov't soldiers

THE INQUIRER Jan. 6 editorial around the New People's Army (NPA) of running "ceasefire agreements that end the peace" and of "treachery" for ambushing an army unit monitoring an offensive military operation against the NPA in Samar two days before our unilateral ceasefire took effect. The NPA's unilateral ceasefire—against a team of the 3rd Special Forces that conducted military operations posing as community organizers for poverty relief development.

We have not violated our ceasefire. Firstly, the two incidents took place outside the ceasefire period. Secondly, the AFP/DND Gallop and the NPA understood the possibility of military incidents beyond the ceasefire period. Thirdly, peace negotiations is a process in the struggle for social justice is just one among the different forms of struggle, and should not prevent the people from strengthening their own army. NPA tactical offensives should not be misunderstood as insincerity, more so that 6,000 new recruits are expected.

The NPA strictly adhered to our Samar [suspension of military operations] for the whole duration of our ceasefire. We also conducted peace forums to explain our actions meant to resist base peace talks. Pointing to a bad faith by the regime's AFP, military actions is in effect preventing them to fight as a "true people's army" should, even as the AFP/PNP and Congress seem to attack the revolutionary forces before, during and after the ceasefire.

The government's counter-insurgency Minahan leaders were arrested during the ceasefire period in their same homes for medical check-up. The CBD's alibi was simple, both have pending criminal cases (isn't it after that all revolutionary's leaders and members have pending criminal cases?) and their arrest were done without violation cases on common crimes?

AFP troops were deployed in NPA areas in the hinterlands during the ceasefire period to secure multinational corporations' operations in Mindanao like mining, logging and plantations. We had strict orders to NPA units never to launch during the same period punitive military actions against these companies that violate the people's rights, including the massive destruction of lumberand environment.

The military attempted to block the media and the 10,000 people who wished to attend the 42nd anniversary celebrations of the CPP in Mindanao and the peace forum organized by the NDF.

The NPF in Mindanao succeeded in arresting prominent revolutionary leaders only during a ceasefire, something is failed to do before and after the ceasefire. AFP units in Mindanao conducted Community Organizing for Peace and Development. They "learned" important mass leaders for quarantining, some were arrested.

On the arrest of Ka Bart Komanan, we were accused of "using as a convenient excuse" the Joint Agreement for Security and Interacting Communities (Jasic). As a legitimate party to the peace talks, like the government, the NDF has the rights and prerogative to choose its representatives.

—JORGE "KA OREG" MADLOS,
spokesperson,
National Democratic Front
of the Philippines (NDFP)–Mindanao,
ndfpmindanao@ymail.com

Restore scenic madway to its erstwhile glory

As Metro Manila's gateway and as a tourist come-on, scenic Roxas Boulevard should be spruced up from the airport on the Rizal Monument to regain its former glory.

Pockets of greenery and sprawls dotted along this major stretch, makeshift dwellings and the sidewalk is the future area are in particular sight to behold. See to monitor food stalls of unlicensed vendors dotting the boulevard especially in the Baywalk area of Manila. Mendicants, vagrants, graffiti, human vampirism, etc. are ordinary sights in most of metropolitan streets and avenues.

How could we entice potential foreign tourists to make a stopover in Manila if such basic necessities as cleanliness, orderliness and beautification are relegated to the background?

The Department of Tourism (DOT), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and local governments concerned should work together to enhance the physical appearance of the once famous strip.

—PEDRO REPOSEJO JR.,
#707 Taylo St., Makati City

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DOJ report on Co killing slammed

From page A1

paged in research work for the Lopez-owned Energy Development Corp. (EDC).

She said the CHR would hold its own hearing next week to hear from the soldiers.

"Of the level of the victims not. Why should I be totally convinced by the DOJ-NBI findings? ... We have to gather all the reports from the different sectors," Mendoza said when interviewed yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo after a human rights seminar.

House probe

At the House, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño has called on Rep. Rene Relampagos, the chair of the house committee on public order, to schedule a hearing on pending resolutions calling for an inquiry into the circumstances of the killing of the three men.

The resolutions filed in November by Colmenares, Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano have yet to be acted on.

Relampagos did not reply to the lawmaker's calls or text messages. But Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, a vice chair of the house committee, said "If someone will file a resolution calling for the inquiry, and it is referred to [our] committee, we are duty-bound to pursue it."

Bayan's Rep. Jose Rilloraza argues it's also justified for a congressional inquiry, lest for a different reason: "The committee should determine how to better protect our scientists during important work in areas where there is some security risk. [Co] is a big loss to the science community."

The military had claimed that Co, Cortez and Borromeo were killed in an exchange of gunfire between 19th IB soldiers and communist rebels in the Kamanlangan area on Nov. 15, 2010.

Co, one of the Philippines' foremost botanists, was hired by EDC to assist in its environmental program. Cortez and Borromeo accompanied him to guide and assist him.

Witness accounts

In a report released on Thursday, the three-member DOJ-NBI panel attributed the killings to the rebels, and also found EDC liable for purposedly failing to ensure the security of the three men.

But Cortez's 22-year-old daughter expressed dismay over the findings, citing as witness accounts that the soldiers were the ones responsible for the deaths.

"Based on the witness, the army killed them. What will we believe, the person who was there and saw it or the really bogus, period, or the DOJ which could manipulate the case?" geodesic engineer Sherdi B. Cortez said yesterday in a text message to Inquirer Visayas.

"What is the use of the DOJ if the truth will not come out?" she said, adding that she would attend the CHR's public hearing on the killings scheduled on Jan. 26 and 27 in Tacloban.

Co's wife Glenda, as quoted by Darwin Flores, made a similar remark, that the panel's findings were "bogus."

Flores said the family was concerned about the tenth of Cliff's statement that no other group was in the area at that time except for Co's team and the military.

He expressed doubt that the DOJ-NBI panel had actually established that an encounter took place between the soldiers and the rebels. He said that despite a statement that there was an encounter at 8:00 a.m., it did not follow that there was an encounter.

9 firearms only

Flores also pointed out that the military had surrendered only nine firearms although their were 40 soldiers in the area during the shooting.

That, he said, the ballistics tests showing that none of the bullets that hit Co and his companions matched the guns could not be conclusive because not all the firearms could have been tested.

Flores said the Co family members were looking forward to the CHR inquiry into the killings, and that they would hold the Army officials to their promise of cooperation in the investigation.

"At least there, we will get to hear each other. We expect the military to cooperate. We will tell them to shed light on their affidavits," he said.

Flores also said it would be good to see the soldiers' body language, especially since the DOJ-NBI panel had only used the soldiers' affidavits in the investigation.

LIKHAMADO Co in the field with his young friends Mary

He said the commission was also waiting for the EDC to issue its own report.

"In fact we had invited to one witness who was able to survive and he said that [the guerillas] only came from one direction—it came from the side of Mary Rest as I said. I am not concluding that these were no crossfire," she said.

Besides said the CHR had summoned soldiers of the 19th IB to the hearing in Tacloban City.

"We're not making any position as of now. We are gathering all the reports and we're going to have our public inquiry ... It's going to be held in Tacloban as I can talk to the soldiers who were involved in the shooting," she said, adding:

"We want to get their statements. After we've gathered all of those and we feel that we will need another inquiry, then we'll [have another one]. Only after we have gathered all of the statements is the only time that we can come up with our analysis and final position on the matter."

'Irresponsible'

Borromeo, who was killed sitting with Co and Cortez, was a member of the Ferguson Center for Insect Systematics (Tfcis).

In separate interviews with Inquirer Visayas, Tungawan Batangan Captain Fernando Rubio and Tfcis president Dr. Antino Barros Jr. expressed disagreement with the DOJ-NBI findings.

"It is impossible that the army has no liability," Rubio said, adding that it would have been more sensible had the panel concluded that Co, Cortez and Borromeo were killed because they were mistaken for rebels.

Barros said he did not believe that the soldiers involved were blood-thirsty.

"If the soldiers are cleared, there is bona-pocsie in the investigation," he said.

Rene de los Reyes, president of the Tungawan Workers Union of which the slain Cortez was a member, said the investigation had just started, which made the panel's conclusions premature.

"What the DOJ has gathered is not solid basis for it to make a conclusion," said De los Reyes, who is also the president of the Philippine Labor Management Cooperation.

In a statement, the Eastern Visayas-based human rights group Karapatan Silangang Bisayas said the DOJ-NBI findings were "another example of a miscarriage of justice in the country."

"Those responsible for the murders are the ones being interviewed and freed of any culpability," said Bachelor Castillo, head of the group's documentation committee.

Conflicting findings

Royal Mosir's Colmenares said an independent probe was necessary in view of the conflicting findings of two fact-finding panels.

The lawmaker noted that the first fact-finding body composed of representatives of non-government organizations led by Aghon leaned toward the military. "And the culprit?"

He said this was why many people were surprised when the DOJ-NBI panel cleared the military on the basis of the testimony of the officers and soldiers themselves.

"It's not the first time we have had in the long history of the AFP, the whitewash of military atrocities has always been the norm. From the Mendiola Massacre in 1987, the Hacienda Lusita Massacre in 1984, and [Fidel Ramos'] Operation in 2005, no military personnel have been held accountable," Colmenares said.

As expected, the military in Eastern Visayas welcomed the DOJ-NBI panel's findings.

"It's not the first time that there is no merit in our claims and we are happy, from the officers down to the line unit," said Lt. Col. Federico Tanaman, 19th IB commanding officer.

Tanaman said that right from the start, he was sure that "the truth will come out."

"We have left the matter to the investigators for we know for a fact that we are not guilty," he said in a phone interview.

He added that he also welcomed the public inquiry to be conducted by the CHR. With reports from Elvie Roman Ruiz and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila

De Lima protests cover-up allegations: Unfair, unfounded

From page A1

Antonio Contreras and former Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Nov. 15, 2010.

"Anyone or any group is free to express disagreement or dissatisfaction with, or criticism of, the panel's finding. To say however, that there's a 'whitewash,' as you quoted someone to say, is one issue altogether. I must say unfair and unfounded," De Lima said in a text message to the Inquirer.

She was referring to the statement made by Giovanni Tapang, chair of Agham Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, that was published yesterday in the Inquirer.

Tapang, also a professor of the Institute for Leonard Co Mountain, had disputed the findings of the panel, saying it ignored the testimonies of the witnesses as well as the evidence.

Site inspection

But De Lima said: "The panel's report finds support in the various documents, sworn statements and reports submitted to the panel, as well as with personal and, more importantly, the results of the on-site ocular inspection/reenactment of the incident. In the absence of contrary proof, the panel's findings stand."

"I cannot certify though as to the truthfulness of the findings, let alone their conclusiveness. I'm open to a request for a review, if warranted."

In its 26-page report, the panel concluded that the NPA rebels were responsible for the killings of Co, Cortez and Borromeo.

DE LIMA: Will look at reenactment video

It said the commission was also waiting for the EDC to issue its own report.

"In fact we had invited to one witness who was able to survive and he said that [the guerillas] only came from one direction—it came from the side of Mary Rest as I said. I am not concluding that these were no crossfire," she said.

Besides said the CHR had summoned soldiers of the 19th IB to the hearing in Tacloban City.

"We're not making any position as of now. We are gathering all the reports and we're going to have our public inquiry ... It's going to be held in Tacloban as I can talk to the soldiers who were involved in the shooting," she said, adding:

"We want to get their statements. After we've gathered all of those and we feel that we will need another inquiry, then we'll [have another one]. Only after we have gathered all of the statements is the only time that we can come up with our analysis and final position on the matter."

'Irresponsible'

Borromeo, who was killed sitting with Co and Cortez, was a member of the Ferguson Center for Insect Systematics (Tfcis).

In separate interviews with Inquirer Visayas, Tungawan Batangan Captain Fernando Rubio and Tfcis president Dr. Antino Barros Jr. expressed disagreement with the DOJ-NBI findings.

"It is impossible that the army has no liability," Rubio said, adding that it would have been more sensible had the panel concluded that Co, Cortez and Borromeo were killed because they were mistaken for rebels.

Rubio said he did not believe that the soldiers involved were blood-thirsty.

"If the soldiers are cleared, there is bona-pocsie in the investigation," he said.

Rene de los Reyes, president of the Tungawan Workers Union of which the slain Cortez was a member, said the investigation had just started, which made the panel's conclusions premature.

"What the DOJ has gathered is not solid basis for it to make a conclusion," said De los Reyes, who is also the president of the Philippine Labor Management Cooperation.

In a statement, the Eastern Visayas-based human rights group Karapatan Silangang Bisayas said the DOJ-NBI findings were "another example of a miscarriage of justice in the country."

"Those responsible for the murders are the ones being interviewed and freed of any culpability," said Bachelor Castillo, head of the group's documentation committee.

Conflicting findings

Royal Mosir's Colmenares said an independent probe was necessary in view of the conflicting findings of two fact-finding panels.

The lawmaker noted that the first fact-finding body composed of representatives of non-government organizations led by Aghon leaned toward the military. "And the culprit?"

He said this was why many people were surprised when the DOJ-NBI panel cleared the military on the basis of the testimony of the officers and soldiers themselves.

"It's not the first time we have had in the long history of the AFP, the whitewash of military atrocities has always been the norm. From the Mendiola Massacre in 1987, the Hacienda Lusita Massacre in 1984, and [Fidel Ramos'] Operation in 2005, no military personnel have been held accountable," Colmenares said.

As expected, the military in Eastern Visayas welcomed the DOJ-NBI panel's findings.

"It's not the first time that there is no merit in our claims and we are happy, from the officers down to the line unit," said Lt. Col. Federico Tanaman, 19th IB commanding officer.

Tanaman said that right from the start, he was sure that "the truth will come out."

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Senate to grill special prosecutors on bribery claims

From page A1

bribery," Ontiveros told the Inquirer. "I was told they are employed under the Office of the President. This means they can be fired."

Besides the prosecutors, Ontiveros said the committee summoning former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, ex-congressman Antonio Ligot, and Guillermo Moncupa to testify.

Ligot, who was Garcia's predecessor, allegedly pocketed P233.28 million.

Prosecutors came under fire for agreeing to free Garcia provided that he returned an amount equivalent to less than half of his alleged loot. The prosecutors said the evidence against him was weak and they supposedly were trying to salvage a victory for the government.

'Bigger crocodile'

Ontiveros said his committee would continue investigating the prosecution's evidence against Garcia to determine if a plea bargain was indeed in order.

He said prosecutors should not have agreed on a compromise without the approval of the "ultimate principal"—the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and the public.

Asked if the Senate would conduct a hearing while there was a pending court case, such as the one against Garcia, Ontiveros said there was an existing jurisprudence that would back his committee's actions.

He said Garcia or at least initially invited to the hearing set at 9 a.m. He said those who fail to attend would be issued a subpoena.

Like many of his fellow senators, Ontiveros was convinced that Garcia did not act alone in allegedly stealing from the military's fund.

"There is a bigger crocodile here and we need to know who that is," he said in Filipino.

Reyes, who headed the Department of National Defense while Garcia handled the military funds, has denied knowledge of his former subordinate's activities.

If that was so, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had said, Reyes was the "biggest moron in history."

No direct bribery

A Sandiganbayan justice yesterday asked the Office of the Solicitor General whether its prosecution challenging the validity of Garcia's guilty plea to the lesser offense of direct bribery was an admission that the information, or charge sheet against him, was defective.

In a hearing, government prosecutors also had to explain about flaws in the information against Garcia, who was charged in 2005, along with his wife and children, with plunder involving P303 million.

The plea bargain required Garcia to turn over to the state his family's assets worth P135,455 million.

The OSG has challenged the agreement, arguing that Garcia's admission in the charge of direct bribery was null and void since not all of the elements of the crime were present in the charge sheet against him.

It said that in the charge sheet, there was no showing that Garcia received gifts or commissions so he would commit an unlawful act or refrain from doing his official duty. It said this was no element of direct bribery that was not shown.

OSG argument

At the hearing, Justice Jeanne Sharlene asked whether the OSG's argument—that all elements of direct bribery must be present in the charge sheet against Garcia to convict him—was not tantamount to saying that the information was defective.

Associate Justice Lucas Bersamin asked whether the OSG's argument—that all elements of direct bribery must be present in the charge sheet against Garcia to convict him—was not tantamount to saying that the information was defective.

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Assistant Solicitor General Jacquelyn Tang said the OSG was not saying that the information was defective or that the plunder was not committed. She said the OSG's position was there were several acts by which plunder could be committed and, in the charge sheet, the act of direct bribery was not shown as to the alleged gifts.

Tang said the OSG was not saying per se on its position that the plea bargain had already been approved since Garcia had already pleaded guilty to the lesser offenses and been granted bail.

HOSTAGE FIASCO PROBE

China wants PH to honor probe

By DJ Yap

CHINA'S TOP diplomat in the country said yesterday he expected the Philippine government to honor its commitment to assist the Hong Kong authorities probing last year's hostage fiasco in Manila that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

Ambassador Liu Jianchao also said the two sides must find a mutually "comfortable and convenient" way to conduct the probe, particularly with respect to Hong Kong's summoning of more than 100 witnesses for its investigation, among them top Philippine officials.

"Everything can be done through negotiations," he said when asked to respond to the hesitation of Philippine government officials in sending the witnesses to Hong Kong.

"We can do that to many ways. It has to be discussed between the Philippine government and Hong Kong authorities so that they can find a way that is comfortable for both sides, that is convenient for both sides," he said.

Liu said the Philippine ambassador to the Hong Kong probe was among the areas of concern that was touched during the visit of Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim to the territory last month, as well as an important step to repair relations between Manila and Hong Kong.

"I think that we'll enjoy the assistance of the Philippine side. So I think that when the coroner's probe opens its inquest, we'll have the assistance from the Philippine government," he said during a lunar New Year reception in his residence in Ayannas Village, Makati City.

"And I think this is important and I hope such assistance will also help the Hong Kong coroner's probe fulfill its mission," he told reporters.

Lim said he continued to hope that the Hong Kong authorities and the Philippine government would rush act "in the spirit of cooperation and understanding."

ON THE EDGE

A house teeters on the edge of what is left of the ground on Thursday after a landslide swept through the remote upland Barangay Cahupisihi, Quezon in Albay. Six houses were destroyed by the landslide. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council warned the residents living near the affected area to evacuate to a safer ground.

Flu is not the common cold. Flu is a worldwide serious health problem that causes 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness, complications like pneumonia, and about 250,000 to 500,000 deaths every year. One out of 100 Filipinos is reported to get sick with influenza-like-illness every year. For those who are working, flu is responsible for 10-12% of absenteeism worldwide. Flu can affect anyone, anywhere.

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A public service message of
sanofi pasteur

Baldoz slaps labor attaché on the wrist

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY Rosalinda Baldoz has reprimanded the Philippine labor attaché in Hong Kong whom a domestic helper complained had verbally abused her while she was seeking his help about her illegal dismissal.

Baldoz said she found labor attaché Bernardo Salud "liable for discourtesy in the course of performing his official duties."

"He is hereby admonished and strongly warned to be more circumspect in his dealings with the public to avoid a similar incident in the future; otherwise, [he] shall be dealt with more severely," the Secretary said in a Jan. 12 letter to the United Filipinos Unified in Hong Kong, which filed the complaint against Salud on behalf of the maid, Agnes Tinzon.

Baldoz, however, dismissed the complaint of abuse of authority and failure to perform official duties for "lack of merit."

Dissatisfied

Unified, which provided the media a copy of Baldoz's letter and an 11-page ruling, expressed dissatisfaction with the Labor chief's decision.

"After months of lobbying and waiting, there is still no justice for Ms. Tinzon. As a heinous crime is a crime against de Jure (God's commandment) and shows the culture of impunity in the government when it comes to erring government officials," Unified chair Sidney Hellaluna said in a statement from Hong Kong. He added that the penalty should have been stiffer.

"How can he be merely admonished for discourtesy when even the rule-dead clearly imposes imprisonment as the minimum sentence for a first offense of such nature? He is not a child who caused a mistrain but a government official responsible for the well-being of tens of thousands of Filipinos. His accountability for this wrongdoing should go beyond mere rewriting an admonition," she said.

She said Unified was studying the decision and would release a formal response next week. The group was also planning to bring their complaint to the Presidential Action on OFW Concerns, Vice President Jejomar Binay, and to Congress.

Justice for all OFWs

"The case represents what is wrong with government service to overseas Filipino workers and the many we represent. The battle we seek is not only for Ms. Tinzon's sake all OFWs who are in distress and do not get the rightful assistance they deserve," Hellaluna added.

Tinzon's case gained prominence after Unified posted on the video-sharing site YouTube a recorded conversation on Oct. 10, 2010, between Salud and Tinzon in which the attaché berated the maid for deciding to pursue a labor case against her employer.

Tinzon had recorded the conversation and a YouTube video of her worrisome quarrel caught Filipinos worldwide and more than 60,000 OFWs in Hong Kong signed a petition for Salud's removal from office.

Salud was reportedly heard telling her to stop talking about her "rights," and using phrases like "Mahalaga ba [salud] Hatong kung kwentong tao? Dito ako an embassy-mama, Salud! You are a travelless person! [sic]"

In the recording, Salud was quoted as saying, "Ang mong pagusisa yong kaniyanan [Salud Kanyaan ko rin... Kung tatanggapin lako o hindi. 'Ang mong pagdalaman to akin yong kaniyanan no-ho? Dito! [sic] ang rights nila. Because it's also my right... whether to accept you or not. Don't keep blasting upon me that you have rights, you hear?"

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Across the NATION

Land title handed to Boracay tribe

CHR report inspires mining foes in Vizcaya

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO, Benguet—Church leaders and anti-mining groups on Tuesday urged local officials in Vizcaya province to support their campaign to request a Commission on Human Rights probe to root out an anomalous mining company from the province and revoke its permit for alleged abuses against villagers in a remote community in Kasibu town.

Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena, of the Diocese of Nueva Vizcaya, supported the CHR proposal for government to withdraw the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) it signed with Oriental Vizcaya Mineral Inc. (OVPI).

"We are again [re]united and lined up to continue the uphill struggle in Didipio and the other areas in the Diocese of Nueva Vizcaya endangered by mining applications," said Villena.

Battle cry

"We will not retreat or give up. Our battle cry lives on: No to mining, yes to life," said the bishop.

Didipio village is the site of OVPI's proposed gold-copper mining project, which has met opposition from residents concerned mostly of dioxins. The conflict has triggered complaints over OVPI's alleged abuses, prompting the CHR to investigate in November 2009.

In a 15-page resolution on Jan. 18, the CHR urged government not to "consider the probable withdrawal of the FTAA granted to [OCPI] in view of the grave violations of human rights it has committed."

The FTAA is an instrument under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 that allows foreign-owned companies to explore, exploit and develop the country's mineral resources, subject to conditions like divestments by the host community.

Oceana statement

In a statement, OCPI said the company has not violated any provisions in the FTAA.

"The company is firmly committed to building strong and enduring relationships with our community ... for the benefit of all stakeholders," said Mick Wilkes, OCPI chief executive officer.

The statement said while OCPI has yet to be officially notified of the resolution, the CHR has already released the document to various "interest groups" and media.

OCPI "is committed to ethical, responsible and sustainable mineral development," the statement said.

It said the mining firm complies "with all laws and regulations associated with operating as a foreign company in the Philippines."

It added that OCPI is providing health, education, infrastructure and other community services in Didipio.

"The company trusts it has met, and is committed to continuing to meet, the human rights of the local community," it said.

Various violations

The CHR said it found human rights violations attributed to OCPI operations in Didipio, "including [trampling on] their right to property, to have adequate residence, their freedom of movement and right to security."

The CHR report drew praise from officials and community leaders here.

"The findings of the CHR only confirm what our Ifugao inquiry had discovered two years ago," said Marvic Vinzon Sitp. Carlos Padilla. "It is now high time the government act on this."

SINULOG CREATURE A giant puppet joins many other creatures, including government officials and politicians, that descended on Cebu's biggest fiesta, Sinulog, devoted to the Sto. Niño. AFP

By Marian R Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

BORACAY ISLAND—The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on Friday formally turned over a land title to the Ati community of Boracay Island for a lot that will serve as a permanent home for the tribe.

The Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), in the name Boracay Ati Tribal Organization (Bati), covers a 2.1-hectare lot in Barangay Manoc-Manoc in the northern end of the 1,032 hectare island. The beach front land will be the new home for 48 Ati families, or at least 200 tribe members.

The Ati said they hoped the document would end their right to live on the island that chain of developers inhabited for so long.

Important Right

"For years we have been forced from one place to another. We hope this will finally end because of this title," said tribe elder Guillermo Vicente.

The Ati land applied for a CADT on Feb. 23, 2007, or the IP to possess their ancestral from the land. They submitted their application in a petition filed in 2003.

The NCIP en banc issued CADT R06-MAL-0610-TIT on Aug. 3, 2010, for the Ati community. The title was registered at the Land Registration Agency in November last year.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat, chair of the House committee on national cultural communities, said the granting of the CADT was a significant achievement in realizing the Ati' strug gle to have a place of their own.

Original settlers

The NCIP and anthropological studies have backed up claims that the Atis were the earliest settlers on the island but were displaced and driven away especially starting in the 1970s when businesses mushroomed taking advantage its white beach.

The Aklanon have been known to as a one-hectare lot in Sitio Balabag in Barangay Balabag.

But they have repeatedly faced threats of eviction from the community officials as in adjoining lots apparently owned by the families of Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores and Antonio Tejo.

Rep. Lorenzenia Ibañez said the title was an essential but not victory for the Ati community that has continuously resisted moves to oust them from the island.

"This is just a small piece of heaven," Ibañez said, referring to Boracay which has often been called "paradise island" for its white powdery sand and crystal clear waters.

Land grabbers

But the transfer of the title to their new home is still uncertain because of resistance from some businessmen who have occupied parts of the lot.

The claimants have erected a (barbed) wire fence and posted armed security guards in parts of the property.

NCIP chair Roque Agton Jr. said the commission would issue a writ of possession that would pave the way for the Atis to occupy the land. He said all legitimate owner would be used to convince the claimants to vacate the lot.

At least 100 persons attended the ceremony, the commission rites held at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, including Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez, other NCIP officials, priests, nuns, members of religious groups and Boracay community leaders.

The turnover was also attended by members of the House committee on national cultural communities such as North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco (vice chair), Rep. Laurenciaka Ilagan (member) and Ifugao Mayo Rep. Teddy Casiño who supported the Ati fight for land.

Baguio City making another bid to host big ad confab

BAGUIO CITY—This city is taking part in a bid, alongside other local governments, for the right to host the 22nd Ad Congress in November after the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard) pulled the congress out of the city in 2009 in the wake of damages wrought by storms on the country's summer capital.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said Baguio would offer itself as venue for the biggest gathering of the country's advertising companies, advertisers and business and media organizations.

Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara on Friday said it was the proper season of action for the city, which was forced to relinquish hosting duties in favor of the Subic Bay Freeport when landslides and floods triggered by Typhoon "Pepeng" damaged roads leading to the summer capital.

But former Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and Anthony de Leon, general manager of Baguio Country Club, said in separate interviews that Adboard officials "promised us to make the city a priority" in an event venue after a series of negotiations in October 2009.

Bautista said the commitment was given to him by Adboard officials, when he accepted the organization's donations for families displaced by the 2009 Typhoon Ketsa. The donations came from the 2009 Ad Congress' profits when the event was staged at the Subic Bay Freeport.

"We did not burn bridges with the Adboard. I respected their decision to withdraw [in 2009] ..."

De Leon said he was provided the same information by Bautista, who was Baguio representative at that time.

Bautista and De Leon fought to convince the Adboard to keep the congress in Baguio in 2009, despite the poor condition of roads, some of which remained in disrepair because of shortage of government funds to restore them.

But De Leon said the talks broke up "with no hard blood from either side."

"We did not burn bridges with the Adboard. I respected their decision to withdraw [in 2009]," he said.

De Leon, who chairs the Baguio Convention and Visitors Bureau (BCVB), said he would join Domogan in pursuing the city's bid to the Ad-Board's upcoming convention before its Jan. 31 deadline. This year's Ad Congress is chaired by Philippine Daily Inquirer president Fernando Perez (Bottomline).

Bautista hosted the event in 2005.

Bautista said the city government and the local hotel industry had designed a "green" program for the 2009 Ad Congress in tune for the city's environment.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Hope springs eternal for improvement of Kennon

ROAD repair is a constant in Baguio City and parts of Benguet as a result of storms and disasters.

BAGUIO CITY—Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson on Thursday is feasibility and design study for the modernization of the 105-year-old Kennon Road.

In a handwritten note obtained on Friday, Singson instructed the Department of Public Works and Highways to "study the proposal" to make the 16-km Kennon Road a major all-weather road and to take up the matter with the Japan International Cooperation Agency for possible foreign funding support.

President Aquino, who spent his New Year break here, had suggested improving the land slide-prone Kennon Road, the shortest route to the city when he talked with Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon on Dec. 31.

Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara announced Singson's plans at Friday's news conference, citing a Jan. 18 meeting with Singson and Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, chair of the House committee on public works and highways. Vergara is the committee's vice chair.

Singson's directive was also confirmed by Baguio district engineer Jimbert Gallaza, who was tasked to coordinate the project.

Vergara said Mr. Aquino's concern for Kennon Road, which was completed in 1905, was a turnaround for an agency that fought to close the road.

After Typhoon Pedring damaged by the July 16, 2009, earthquake, former Public Works Secretary Hernando Perez for "consigned that road to history" because of extensive geological weaknesses that before were too expensive to repair, Vergara said.

"But I fought him, I said, 'Over my dead body.' I poured P200 million there from my [park barrel funds] to open blocked sections of the road," he said.

Vergara, a civil engineer, said improving Kennon Road would be costly.

According to a study in 1986 by the Bilmo and Associates Bureau, the earthquake recorded 18 ground weaknesses on Kennon Road that even the American-colonial government had noted in 1932. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

Brighter future for Tubigon weavers

By Cris Evert B. Lito
Tubigon, Bohol

FOR MORE than 50 years, the residents of Barangay Pinayagan Norte in Tubigon town have believed that teaching their children how to weave means teaching them how to live.

The belief has not changed even if weaving is slowly becoming a secondary option for the younger generation, says Salvacion Ortega, a weaver.

Ortega, 56, a member of the Tubigon Weavers Multipurpose Cooperative (TWMPC), says weaving raffia fiber to produce mats enabled her parents to put food on the family's table and send her and her siblings to school. It was also weaving that helped her and husband, Victor Jake, rear six children.

"There are many of us in the barangay with the same life story as mine. Weaving has been taught by our parents, passed on from generation to generation," she tells the Inquirer in Visayan while working inside her cubicle in the cooperative's production center.

She said two of her children might take on the tradition of weaving. "After all, apart from earning [money], weaving is also a family tradition that we need to keep and pass on," says Ortega.

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteer Yoko Ishii provides technical assistance through new designs and materials preparation to Tubigon weavers.

Export

Ortega and fellow TWMPC members weave bags, place mats, wallets and table runners, among others, for export consignee in Manila and Cebu.

"These products are then exported to Europe, the United States and Japan by these companies, who serve as our clients," says TWMPC marketing manager Vilma Sumayan.

The weavers earn at least P300 for one roll of raffia fiber that they finish in a big mat (24 inches by 16 inches) in two days.

Eighty percent of the consignee goes to the weavers and the rest goes to the cooperative to shoulder operational and maintenance costs, Sumayan explains.

The cooperative has 110 members, 92 of whom are active weavers. Sumayan says. Of this number, 30 work inside the production center and the remaining 34 work in their homes.

Inside the production center, the workers are assigned to a personalized working area labeled with their names.

The cooperative earns a monthly income between P120,000 to P220,000 both from walk-in customers and purchase orders from consignees.

The demand is high during the months of May and December, when fiesta celebrations and Christmas parties are held.

THE COOPERATIVE has started producing bags and frames because of demand.

Assistance

It was in 1989 that barangay residents, all skilled in weaving mats out of the native raffia fiber decided to form an association that will help them sell their products.

With the help of OTI, the association prepared to become a cooperative in 1999.

Sumayan says the success of the cooperative may not have been possible without the assistance of several organizations, both public and private, that pushed for the improvement of their products and marketing them outside of Bohol.

"In 2007, we received financial support from the Philippine-Australia Community Program. We used the money to build our production center," says Sumayan.

From then on, the cooperative continued to receive financial assistance. At present, their major partners include the local government of Tubigon, Ayala Foundation Inc., Fundacion Santiago, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Jica volunteer Yoko Ishii says she feels lucky to be assigned to a group of people who "knows what they are doing."

"My role is to provide an outsider's view ... to expand their mind-sets on how they can create better products by providing better designs. I need to open their eyes on new trends in the world market so they can sell their products," says Ishii, a fashion designer who studied and worked both in Japan and London.

With a vibrant tourism market, Ishii says the weavers in Tubigon are in the perfect place to sell their products to the growing tourist population.

Bright future

Boy Anthony Rojas, DTI Bohol Provincial Officer under provincial office, says the DTI is also assisting the weavers in developing new products through its Design Acceleration and Materials Innovation project.

Under this project, 22 weavers from the towns of Tubigon and Inabanga are trained to mix salt in their with recycled materials to create products such as bags and wallets.

These recycled materials include sotoso, plastic straw, newspapers and unused wires.

"These clients would order specific designs from the weavers. These are customized designs. That's why they don't allow photos to be taken. Product development is important to get more orders," Tegio explains.

Sumayan said the production center has become a place to visit for tourists who come to Bohol, and this happened without the cooperative intentionally building the structure for tourists purposes.

"Perhaps this tells us that we are doing well, [but our products are (of) good (quality). This means more orders and more livelihood opportunities for the weavers," Sumayan says.

Obama reveals he's plotting to run in 2012

From page A1

would "likely" ask voters to send him back to the White House in 2012.

"We've made some progress on getting our economy back in order, and I think the President wants to continue to do that," Gibbs said, adding that Obama would file official candidacy papers in the coming months.

The plan

Officials, meanwhile, gave the most detailed information yet about Obama's plans to set up his campaign headquarters in his hometown of Chicago and to separate the machinery from the work of the White House in Washington.

The President plans to close the White House's political office and send his deputy chief of staff Jim Messina to run the campaign, along with two other Democratic operatives Johnnie Simon and Jennifer O'Malley Dillon.

The plan, first reported by the New York Times, reflects the need to lay the foundations of a structure to replicate Obama's 2008 grassroots campaign. Though the election is nearly two years away and Obama has no time other than Republican opponents will be.

It also sets up an almost paradoxical situation, whereby Obama will be seeking to raise money by empowered Republicans often their multi-term election triumph, even as he plots to undertake them in the mid-term.

Focus on governing

But Gibbs said that while Obama was formally moving forward a campaign, he focus remained on governing.

"It is important to understand, just because the President sets up the machinery of ultimately running for reelection does not mean in any way are going to see the President do a number of political maneuvers," he said.

None of the reelection effort came exactly one years to the day when Obama raised his hand and took the oath of office, on a chilly day in Washington, accompanied by soaring expectations.

There was no serious thought that Obama would not seek a second term, a historical benchmark of a successful presidency, despite a quarter-to-comment that he would rather be a good one-term president than a bad two-term leader.

The message

Obama will run for reelection arguing he started still unfinished. Chief Democratic, re-turned the US image abroad and set the polarizing presidency of George W. Bush and got US troops home from Iraq while saving the US mission in Afghanistan.

Obama will seek to raise his landmark healthcare reform into an elevated asset, say that Republicans cannot be trusted with the economy and urge Americans not to change course in the middle of a recovery.

Republicans will likely try to exploit an unemployment rate—currently 9.4 per cent—buoyed to remain high to 2012 and accuse Obama of bankrupting US finances with a torrent of government spending.

However, recent official economic data suggests that the jobless picture may be at last be improving, albeit slowly.

Surging poll ratings

Obama's thoughts are turning to reelection at a moment of uncertain political momentum, after he outmaneuvered Republicans over a November mid-term election rout, and following his handling of the Arizona shooting.

A string of polls has shown that voters are increasingly appreciative of Obama's job performance.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey showed Obama's approval rating surging to 53 percent, 10 points higher than in December.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll pegged Obama's approval rating at 54 percent, up 5 points from the previous month.

Warning signs

However, the ABC survey showed warning signs for the President, in that his ratings on individual issues, like the economy, healthcare and the war in Afghanistan, were all below 50 percent.

Obama will next week make his State of the Union address, his first chance to set the early political battleground ensuring up to the 2012 campaign.

The looming election means that Obama's coming budget battle with Republicans will all be viewed in a highly political context.

Possible rivals

Most often mentioned Republican candidates to take on Obama include Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, a failed 2008 contender, and former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty.

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich, former Bush budget director Mitch Daniels and Mississippi governor Haley Barbour are also possible candidates.

Amid the invasions of the more high-profile Republicans in the United States, Sarah Palin, are streaming fevered speculation. AFP

PREPARING FOR 2012 RUN: US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama welcome China's President Hu Jintao to the White House for a lavish state dinner. AP

Wiretaps of Berlusconi's sexcapades captivate Italians

From page A1

Milan prosecutors as part of their prostitution probe targeting the 74-year-old Italian leader and his alleged encounters with a Moroccan teenager, known as Ruby.

The prosecutor has denied wrongdoing and denounced the violation of his privacy.

Still, transcripts of the purported conversations involving Ruby, women who attended parties in Berlusconi's villa near Milan and some of the premier's aides and friends offer a glimpse into an indulgent lifestyle that critics say is inappropriate for a public official.

In some purported conversations, Berlusconi's house is described as a brothel with topless girls dancing around the premier himself is described as a "caricature" by one guest and as having gained weight and having become ugly by another.

Nurse with stethoscope

Other published wiretaps have a woman identified as Ruby saying that Berlusconi was willing to pay for her silence.

In an August conversation, a Berlusconi ally is purported to have told a young woman to dress up as a sexy nurse and pretend to examine the premier as a joke. The wiretap was made the Sept 14 by a Franco-Canadian newspaper more used to discussing market fluctuations than sex games.

"Put on the Gestbusiness," The man tells the woman, "the nurse title outfit ... and skimpy stockings."

At another point, an unidentified person tells police that "positive tests and nurse uniforms" were made available to girls attending Berlusconi's parties. The allegation prompted a police arrest for sexually prized.

Vatican watching

Criticism has extended from the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, called Thursday for a "move to least morality, a sense of justice and legality" in all citizens and "especially those who have public responsibility of any kind."

In the first comments from a Vatican official, Bertone said the Holy See was following "these Italian events with attentiveness and concern."

"If ever just a third of the most-blowing rhetoric that emerges from the Milan prosecutors' material is truthful, then we would be faced with the decline of a man who has been an important protagonist of the last 30 years of Italy's public life. I'm talking about Silvio Berlusconi," said a front-page editorial by Libero, a conservative newspaper close to Berlusconi that chose to publish huge portions of the wiretaps this week.

BERLUSCONI Another scandal

MOROCCAN teenager Ruby

Sex with a minor

Prosecutors have placed Berlusconi and three associates under investigation, an suspicion that the premier between February and May paid for sex with the Moroccan girl, then a minor, and used his office to cover it up.

Prosecutors have said in a document that "a significant number of young women have prostituted themselves with Silvio Berlusconi."

Paying for sex with a prostitute is not a crime in Italy, but it is if the prostitute is younger than 18.

Transcripts of the wiretaps—389 pages—were sent from the Milan prosecutors to a parliamentary commission in House examining documents relating to the investigation.

For the past days, the newspaper has been gleefully published on virtually every Italian newspaper's front page. The official document by Milan prosecutors has been widely disseminated on this alarming internet sites.

Politically motivated

Berlusconi, a billionaire media tycoon, has denied ever paying for sex. The premier went on the attack on Wednesday, when he said the Milan prosecutors should be punished for conducting what he said was an illegitimate and politically motivated probe.

Ruby has also denied any sexual relationship, saying that Berlusconi never "put a finger on me." She said she had about her age when she met Berlusconi on Valentine's Day, saying she was 24 instead of declaring her real age, 17.

Ruby turned 18 in November.

In wiretaps picked on Tuesday by Italy's leading newspaper Corriere della Sera and cited by the AP, Ruby on Oct 28 talked to her father and told him she was with a lawyer.

"Silvio has told him, "Tell her that I will pay whatever once she wants, the important thing is that she keep her mouth shut, that she does everything ... that I have never seen a 17-year-old," Ruby is purportedly heard telling her father.

Wild parties

In another purported conversation the same day, Ruby tells a woman that she has been threatening Berlusconi's house since the age of 16, but that Berlusconi "thought I was 24 years old."

On the same day, a woman identified as Ruby purportedly says she is sending me six tell her (RR 15 million) euros.

Berlusconi, according to the wiretaps confirmed to the AP.

Other purported conversations suggest wild parties where anything went—and girls were at scantily dressed as they can be on Berlusconi's 75 channels.

"You see all sorts of things," Nicole Minetti, one of the Berlusconi associates under investigation, purportedly tells a woman about to attend a Berlusconi party. The woman then told a friend it was like a "paradise" in which everybody wanted to be Berlusconi's favorite.

"Then, on Tuesday, I'll be a queen," according to the wiretaps.

'As long as he pays'

A man identified as a former provincial representative of Rome in Israel recounting the tale of a friend who had been at a Berlusconi party in September conversations printed by Libero. "There were orgies—not with drugs," Berlusconi was singing and "all girls ... at the end were topless, only in their panties," the man says, according to the wiretaps.

Another wiretap contains less than flattering comments about Berlusconi. In September, a woman identified as a former contestant of a reality show is heard telling her farm caller that Berlusconi "has gained weight and is ugly ... He has become ugly but as long as he pays."

The wiretaps have proved embarrassing for Berlusconi and some of his allies, given the conservative coalition has promoted family values.

More than 2,000 Italian women—mothers and daughters, politicians, artists and athletes—have signed an online petition telling Berlusconi that not all women in Italy are prostitutes or showgirls.

Berlusconi, whose term runs out in 2013, has dismissed any suggestions that the scandal might force him to resign. AP

Microbes turn Baguio garbage into fertilizer in 3 hours

From page A1

kilometers from the city after residents lambasted and forced the closure of the city dump. The trash produced by the city had exceeded the capacity of the old dump.

3-hour process

Relied by engineers, Shimizu supervised EM5 operations in Barangay Irisan, the location of the city's old dumpsite. The test run converted 40 tons of organic wastes.

The two EM5 machines are capable of converting the city's wastes three times daily.

The Shimizu microbes can convert raw sewage and organic wastes into powdered fertilizer in under three hours, using a process that takes place in side thermal containers.

Each container can take in 24 tons of biodegradable waste, which are heated to a temperature of 70 degrees Celsius. This is the most efficient environment for distinguishing salmonella and other microbes from organic garbage, and for Shimizu microbes to thrive. Shimizu microbes consume the bad microbes to increase the stench.

The thermal process also kills all moisture out. The EM5 machines expel fine grains of green fertilizer, which Japanese engineers said are nutrients.

Shimizu, speaking through a translator, Jun Shimizu, declined to elaborate on the composition of the Shimizu microbes.

Shimizu is the president and chief executive officer of Uro Tech Machinery Corp., which distributes the EM5 machines.

Test site

Although a portable EM5 has been in use in Malabon for some time, Baguio has become the test site for large-scale operations.

Once the machines prove successful in processing huge volumes of garbage, it may be marketed elsewhere, Shimizu said. He said the provinces of Benguet and Lapanto have shown interest in the machines.

"For us, it is important to recycle and not destroy the environment. Our goal with this machine is zero-waste management," Shimizu said.

In the company's promotional literature, EM5 a marketed as an option for dealing with climate change.

"The EM5 complements and supplements existing landfills, dumps and incinerators. It aids in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, proper disposal of biodegradable solid wastes and help in the green production of the agricultural sector," the company said. Several Cabinet with a report from Zenaida Chapuyi, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SUPER MICROBES Jun Shimizu, president of Uro Tech distributors the Environmental Recycling System machines (at left), shows Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan (right) how the machine works. The EM5 machine uses special microbes to convert organic waste and sewage into powder fertilizer in two to three hours. JOEL SUMANGIL CONTRIBUTOR

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Lifumday

Las Piñas wants more family courts

Judges point to more annulment cases, instances of women/child abuse

By Miko Morales

MORE family courts, please.

This appeared to be the most pressing concern for members of the bench in Las Piñas, with the rising number of couples in the city who want to split up.

"In some three are a lot of people filing for the annulment of their marriages," Judge Joselito Villarama told Chief Justice Renato Corona and Supreme Court Administrator Midas Marquez who were the special guests at the launching yesterday of the Justice on Wheels program in Las Piñas.

Judges from the city's trial courts, as well as city prosecutors and public defenders yesterday raised other legal issues with officials of the Supreme Court during the inauguration of the program aimed at expediting the disposition of court cases.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Villarama said the two trial courts designated to hear cases involving family issues are clogged with lawsuits, on top of active criminal and civil cases.

CHief Justice Renato Corona (center) with Las Piñas Bar Association president Rufino Aking and Executive Judge Elizabeth Yu-Garcia at the launch of the justice on Wheels program in Las Piñas City yesterday

Apart from petitioners seeking the annulment of their marriages, the other cases involve violence against women and children, which also fall under the jurisdiction of family courts.

The judge, however, would not give an exact figure as to how many annulment cases are pending in the two courts.

Both courts have almost 800 cases pending in their dockets, while regular courts have an average of 60 to 80 cases, Villarama added.

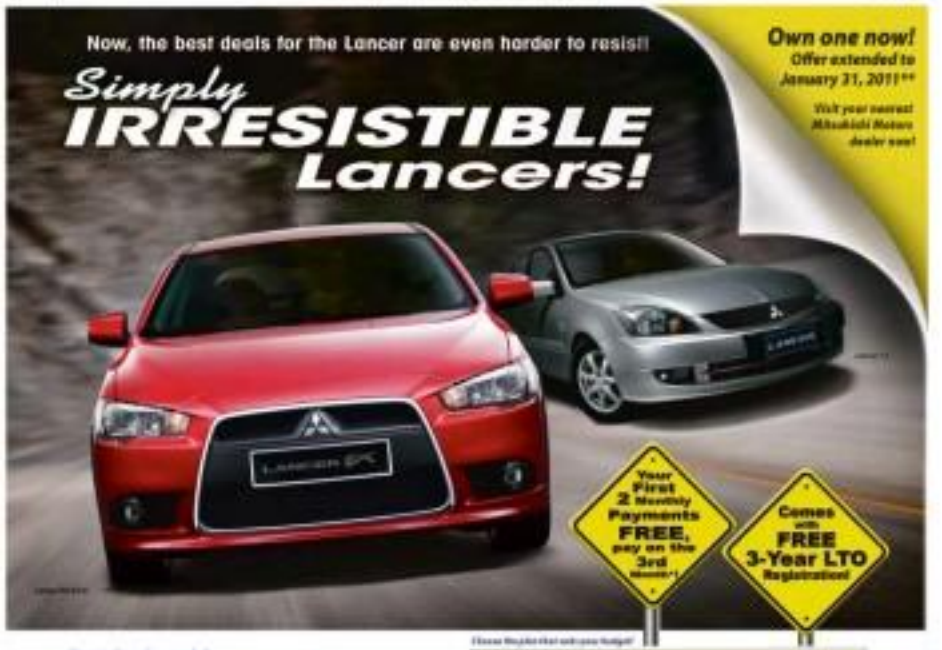
On the average, for every case raffled off to a regular court, three are thrown to a family court, and this ratio has caused the dockets to be clogged, Villarama explained.

Marquez asked the judge to put his request for more family courts in writing so the high court could act on it.

City Prosecutor Cynthia Lazaro also asked Marquez if the Supreme Court could designate more drug courts, and the latter likewise suggested that she write the justice department about her request.

Another judge asked about

LAS PIÑAS A 18



Metro bus operators seek fare increase from LTFRB

By Paolo G. Montecillo

METRO Manila bus operators have asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board's (LTFRB) permission to increase their base fares amid rising prices of fuel.

The LTFRB said the Intercity Bus Operators Association Inc. (Ibolai) last Jan. 13 filed a petition for a fare increase.

In its petition, Ibolai said its members wanted to raise bus fares by P1 for the first five kilometers, and P1.00 for every succeeding kilometer, from the current P12.25.

Last Jan. 5, the Southern Luzon Bus Operators Association (Solabus) also filed a petition to for a P2.50 raise in the fare for provincial buses, amid rising fuel prices and a recent 20% peso-to-dollar devaluation.

Bill rates at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) were also hiked at the start of the year.

With the rising prices of commodities, mainly fuel, operators of other modes of mass transport have also sought the government's permission to increase their fare.

The Federation of Jeepney Operators Association of the Philippines, the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations and the Pinglahatan ng Nagkaisa at Operator Nationwide have asked the LTFRB to hike jeepney fares from P7 to P9.

That operators, meanwhile, were recently granted an increase in their flag down rates to P40 from P30, and for every succeeding kilometer, from P2.00 to P3.50. Despite such increase though, some complain passengers will be allowed to change the new rate.

Lack of fare money drove woman to rob courier office

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A WOMAN running to return to her home province—but without enough money to do so—robbed a bank from an LBC branch along Quezon Boulevard in Quiapo.

Sr. Manila Police District's Sta. Cruz Station 3, Herrera told the inspirer that she was away from her elderly's home Thursday and was planning to go to her home in Cagsi province, but had no money to pay for her fare.

"I just wanted to go home. I haven't been home for three years and had not seen my father for a long time. I have no money and I thought I could pay for a toilet bathe if I resort to robbery," she said.

LBC customer associate Jocelyn de Mesa said she was manning the office counter when Herrera walked in at around 11:15 a.m., asking how much it would cost to send P5,000 overnight via the delivery service.

"When I turned to my computer to check, she pulled a small knife at me and declared a holdup," De Mesa said.

Herrera told her to hand over and said she had an accomplice who would shoot her if she did not obey her order, she added.

De Mesa said she was forced to hand over P15,000 to Herrera, who stuffed the money in her shoulder bag and fled.

But De Mesa shouted for help, vendors outside the office ran after Herrera who was immediately caught and turned over to MPD station 3.

"I don't know what came over me. This is the first time I did this," she said.

Herrera remains detained at the MPD station 3 holding still pending the filing of a robbery charge against her in the City Prosecutor's Office.

New and improved bike lanes soon to open in Marikina

By Kristine Felisse Pangonay

DUBBED the biking capital of the Philippines, Marikina City is set to enhance its biking network to promote the sport among its residents and to encourage the influx of visitors and investors in the city.

The bicycle lanes—measuring a total of 61 kilometers and which were built in 2002 through a P1.3 million World Bank grant—will be restored to make those major attractions in the city.

The new and improved bike network will be inaugurated in April in time for the launch of the "Make it Marikina Year 2012" campaign aimed at showcasing the city's products and to promote a healthy lifestyle through biking.

"We hope this undertaking will encourage more Marikeños to use bicycles instead of motorized vehicles especially when going to work, school and other just more" said Mayor Del de Guzman in a statement.

To ensure the safety and convenience of biking enthusiasts, the lanes will be equipped with CCTV cameras, lampposts and public address speakers. Security personnel will also be deployed in the area.

Car theft gang has police protection

A NOTORIOUS car theft syndicate in Central Luzon has been exposed following the brutal murders of three persons that have shocked the nation.

The "carnap" group, police said, is headed by brothers Ogie and Raymund Dominguez.

The Dominguez group has been operating in Central Luzon, as well as in Metro Manila, for a long time with impunity.

Why did it have to take the murders of car dealers Emerson Lozano and Vincent Evangelista and Lozano's driver Ernesto Serrall for the police to go after the syndicate?

* * *

The Dominguez car theft group could not have gone about its nefarious activities without the knowledge of the local police.

Particularly in Meiao is the Highway Patrol Group which is supposed to guard our highways, not only from reckless drivers but also from carjackers.

It would not be way off the mark to suspect that some policemen were receiving bribe money from the members for every car it steals.

* * *

In the 1980s, names like Capt. Alfredo Gozon of the Highway Patrol were feared by car thieves.

Gozon was undergoing a "car napper" who refused his guilt.

Gozon and his men killed over a woman member of a car theft gang during an encounter.

When I once talked Gozon about his "unpredictable" reputation, his reply was: "She was shooting at us, so we had to shoot back."

The present members of the Highway Patrol Group probably are not feared by carjacking gangs.

ON TARGET

Raymund Dominguez, who was once linked to actress Kristine Pauls, in an entertainment of the line he would shoot a significant that sets a speed limit from his running car.

He did that every time he passed by the same signboard along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

I am sure some lawmen know about his deadly prank but left Dominguez alone for fear of crossing him.

For me, small policemen don't know how to shoot.

* * *

Members of the Highway Patrol Group in Central Luzon is ignored Thursday snares selling most suspected stolen vehicle parts and engines at Barangay Capalangan in Apalit, Pampanga.

The most hoping in theft heads in the murders of Lozano, Evangelista and Serrall.

* * *

They know that Barangay Capalangan is the dumping ground of stolen vehicle parts and engines, and yet they have looked the other way for for too long.

A driver to the barangay is where stolen cars are subsequent for days before they're fished out by a crane to be concealed.

My source said the Highway Patrol Group knows about the practice, but has turned a blind eye.

Why? Because Capalangan is a source of bribe money to some members of the Highway Patrol.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

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	Lot2	(250,000 pcs.)	?0,000.??
	Lot3	(?00,??? pcs.)	?0,000.??

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee. For details, please contact Secretariat number: 734-1?1?.

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bid Conference	January 19, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.	Venue: DFMH Conference Room
Opening of Bids	February 3, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.	Venue: DFMH Conference Room

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award of bidding procedures and the pertinent provisions are contained in the Bidding Documents from your Negotiator.

The DFMH-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found thereto and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or reimburse bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee bids are issued and awarded.

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Las Piñas

From page A17

the possibility of having more MTCs (metropolitan rural courts) in the city to flush out the backlog of cases. Las Piñas has 10 regional trial courts and one MTC.

Earlier in the day, Las Piñas' lone congressman, Rep. Mark Villar, told reporters that he had already filed a bill seeking the institution of five more MTCs for the city.

The Justice on Wheels program was instituted in 2004 from a concept paper put together by Supreme Court officials after then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. studied the possibility of having mobile courts in the country after seeing the program at work on an official visit to Dominica.

Since then, the program has reportedly the release of over 2,500 prisoners, and nabs settled through court mediation procedures.

METROBRIEFS

'Follow Muntinlupa's example'

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday urged other local government units to adopt Muntinlupa City's measure against the use of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials by all food establishments. "I hope other LGUs would follow suit because strong measures such as these would definitely help combat the dangerous effects of environmental degradation which leads to massive flooding and climate change," said MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino. He said he issued a push for the adoption of similar measures in the 16 other cities and municipalities comprising Metro Manila. Muntinlupa is the first city in Metro Manila to ban the use of plastic bags for wet and dry goods and polystyrenes, commonly known as styrofoam or styrofoam for food stuff, drinks and other goods. In passing the ordinance, the Muntinlupa City Council said that plastic bags and other non-biodegradable containers that clog waterways are the major causes of flash floods in this city during heavy rains. *Rainer Saludes*

Valera arraigned in QC court

FORMER Aloe Gov. Vicente Valera was arraigned yesterday in Quezon City Regional Trial Court on charges for the killings of Aloe Rep. Luis Gerasmio and his body guard outside a church in December 2006. Defense lawyer Rolando Quinto told the tribunal that the court entered a plea of not guilty for his client as Valera refused to enter a plea because of his pending petition for certiorari. "Dismissal of the said writ is a precursor cause of his pending petition before the Court of Appeals, so the court entered the not guilty plea for him," said Quinto. Judge Evalyn Valera-Tita of Regional Trial Court Branch 94 ordered Valera's arraignment for two counts of murder and one count of frustrated murder. Valera, along with several others, is facing charges for allegedly murder resulting the assassination of Gerasmio and the death of his bodyguard, SPO1 Adolfo Ortega on Dec. 16, 2006. *Benjamin Valera's reported political rival, was attending a wedding when he was gunned down. The case hearing has been set for Jan. 28. John-Al Acrado*

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAUNAWAAN NG KAMAYANAN
PROGRAM PARA SA PAGLALAHAD NG KATIBAYAN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. Mira Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) through Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. [illegible] and Continuing Allotment No. [illegible] dated [illegible] intends to apply the sum of **PESOS: SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE & 38/100 (?,??,???.??)** being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the proposed Authorization of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) Central Office Backup System. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) now invites bids for the proposed Authorization of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) Central Office Backup System. Delivery of the goods is required within [illegible] calendar days. Bidders should have completed within the last [illegible] years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification procedures as the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships or organizations with at least sixty-five percent (?5%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC Administrative Secretariat, 7th Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue, cor. Mira Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PESOS: **FIVE THOUSAND (Php 5,000.00)** on January 24 to 28, 2011, upon submission of letter of intent (LOI).

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on February 03, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, 4th Floor, LRA Building, which attendance upon only by all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be submitted on **February 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 1st Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue, cor. Mira Road, Diliman, Quezon City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address shown. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Marcelita R. Ang
BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. 929-0511
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GREENBELT

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ramos

SOUTH Korean naval special forces approach the South Korean cargo ship Samho Jewelry in a military operation in the Arabian Sea on Jan. 21. —

S. Korea Navy storms hijacked ship, kills pirates, rescues crew

SEOUL—South Korean Navy commandos on Friday stormed a ship hijacked by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean, rescuing all the 21 crew and killing eight pirates, military officials said.

The SEAL special forces boarded the South Korean ship before dawn, freeing all the hostages and killing the pirates in cabin in cabin transfer, they said. Five others were captured.

"This operation demonstrated our government's strong will that we won't tolerate illegal activities by pirates any more," Lt. Gen. Lee Sung Ho of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told a news briefing.

The South Korean skipper of the chemical freighter suffered a gunshot wound to his stomach during the raid but his condition is not life-threatening, the military said. No commandos were hurt.

The rescue about 1,300 km off southeast Somalia was seen as a major morale boost for the South's military.

It was strongly criticized for a perceived weak response to North Korea's shelling of a border island last November.

President Lee Myung-Bak, who authorized the operation, said the military assisted out the said perfectly under difficult circumstances.

The pirates seized the 11,500-ton ship and 21 crew members—eight South Koreans, two Indonesians and 11 from Burma (Myanmar)—on Jan. 15 in the Arabian Sea where it was en route to Sri Lanka from the United Arab Emirates.

Seoul ordered a destroyer on patrol in the Gulf of Aden to join a three-nation Combined Task Force 150 based in Bahrain to coordinate counter-piracy operations.

Lieutenant-General Lee said the commandos moved in after receiving information that the "leather ship" hit the pirates was boarding a Somali port.

"Since we thought we could be in an extremely difficult situation if the pirates joined forces, we chose today to carry out the operation."

To distract the pirates' attention, the destroyer fired warning shots and maneuvered close to the hijacked vessel. A Lynx helicopter provided covering fire as the commandos stormed the ship. AFP

China to rein in North Korea, US official says

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama wanted President Hu Jintao that if China did not step up its pressure on North Korea, the United States would have to redeploy its forces to make to protect itself from a provoked North Korean strike on US soil, a senior administration official said on Thursday.

Obama's warning, first made in a phone call to Hu last month and repeated over a private dinner at the White House on Tuesday prompted China to take a harder line toward North Korea, the official said, which opened the door to a resumption of dialogue between North and South Korea.

On Thursday the South Korean government said that it had agreed to hold defense talks with the North, the first engagement between the Koreas since a deadly North Korean artillery attack on a South Korean island in November seemed to push the peninsula to the brink of war.

China's change of heart is in line from complete Beijing has still not condemned North Korea for torpedoing a South Korean warship. During Hu's visit, China for the first time joined the United States in publicly expressing concern over a new North Korean uranium-enrichment plant. But there were no immediate signs that it planned to punish the North for its defiance.

Still, Obama's pressure, reinforced by senior officials like Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, started China into much closer alignment with the United States in dealing with North Korea.

Continuing his US visit, Hu traveled from the White House to the chiller and of Obama's native Ameriwon on Thursday to meet with lawmakers wanting to take him to task over issues like human rights and trade policy. Hu later met with business leaders.

The topic of North Korea dominated the intimate dinner that Obama held for Hu on Tuesday, the official said. Obama focused on North Korea's recently disclosed uranium-enrichment plant, saying that it was one prong of a three-pronged threat to the United States that included the North's production of plutonium bombs and development of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Without help from China, which is the major supporter of the North Korean government, Obama told Hu that the United States would have to take long-term measures, like redeploying its forces, changing its defense posture or beefing up military exercises in Northeast Asia, according to the administration official.

"It was our intent to suggest preemption, but we were projecting that a North Korea that becomes a national security threat is going to get a response," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. "That was interpreting for the Chinese." AFP/NYT

WORLDBRIEFS

Car bombs kill 51 persons in attack on Iraq pilgrims

BAGHDAD—Three suicide car bombers struck Shiite pilgrims south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 51 people and wounding more than 100 in a third straight day of attacks across Iraq. The string of assaults, reminiscent of the bloodiest days of the Iraq war, shattered a two-month lull and presented a major challenge to the new government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who must soon decide whether to ask US forces to stay after the end of the year. Thursday's attacks were particularly significant because most of the victims were Shiite civilians, the government's core constituency. AP

2 in Hong Kong critical with swine flu

HONG KONG—Two people were in critical condition in Hong Kong's hospitals being treated for swine flu, health officials said on Friday, a year and a half after an outbreak killed more than 80 people in the city. The Chinese financial center is anxious about infections disease, following the outbreak of the SARS virus in 2003, which killed 300 people in the city and a further 500 around the world. Hong Kong, a city of seven million, has some of the world's most densely populated neighborhoods, prompting a panicked response from many residents over cases of a disease outbreak. AFP

UK drops 28-day custody limit for terror suspects

LONDON—Britain will scrap rules that allow police to hold terror suspects for up to 28 days before they must be charged with a crime or released, officials said on Thursday. A new limit of 14 days will take effect on Tuesday, Home Office minister Damian Green said before an announcement next week on a sweeping review of the country's approach to combating terrorism. The 28-day detention rule was introduced by the Labour government in 2006—soon after the London bombings on July 7, 2005—but police have rarely used the power, Green said. AP

Democracy icon Suu Kyi gets Web access

RANGOON—Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi has finally had Internet access installed at home in Burma (Myanmar) after her years of isolation were to caught in an email two months ago, an aide said on Friday. Her security chief Win Htein said that the opposition leader was "glad" to be able to go online at her lakeside mansion in Rangoon (Yangon) and would use the technology to contact her network of supporters. AFP

More than 125 arrested in US mob crackdown

THE CRIMINAL allegations spanned several states and several decades, encompassing figures from seven mob families, and led to federal charges that were brought against more than 125 people on Thursday.

There were murders, including a double homicide over a spilled drink in a bar. There were the more run-of-the-mill activities associated with organized crime: racketeering, extortion, loan-sharking, money laundering, gambling and the like.

Then there's one's own name: names from much here, including Luigi Manocchio, 81, the former boss of New England's Patriarca crime family, who was said to have dressed in women's clothing to avoid capture decades ago. He was arrested in Florida, accused of another murder charge, shedding down on a cello in Providence, RI.

The charges were contained in 10 indictments handed up in federal courts in four jurisdictions, Taken together, they amounted to what federal officials called the "largest mob roundup in FBI history."

The indictments were announced by Atty. Gen. Eric Holder, who appeared at a news conference Thursday morning in Brooklyn, where the charges against many of the alleged mob figures in the indictments lodged.

For the attorney general, it was an opportunity to preside over the kind of law enforcement operation that was once the core mission of the Justice Department, but which has largely been shouldered during his tenure by the more antitrust issues inherited from the Bush administration. Holder spoke of the "unprecedented scope and magnitude" in the investigation, but questions were also raised about the diffuse nature of the indictments, which involved a myriad of unconnected criminal activity.

The sweep began before dawn, with 800 federal agents and state and local investigators fanning out across the region. The targets, officials said, ran the gamut from what they called small-time book makers and shakedown artists to mob middle managers and the entire current leadership of the Colombo crime family, as well as two senior Gambino family figures. Prosecutors said the "made" members of New York's five crime families—Genovese, Gambino, Colombo, Luchese and Bonanno—and crime families in New Jersey and New England were among those arrested.

By taking out the leadership of the Colombo and Bonanno families, dozens of reputed crime figures from the other families, the FBI and federal prosecutors hoped the case would have a significant effect. But at the same time, officials acknowledged that the mob had shown itself to be remarkably resilient.

Managing and governing the Mafia families of the five families would fatten over has not eradicated the problem," said Justice Rodenyik, the head of the New York FBI office, saying it is "a myth" that the violence-ridden of the past.

"Just as the retirement or resignation of a corporate CEO does not spell the end of the company neither does the incarceration of a mob boss or other key executives" means the destruction of the family."

At the press conference, Holder also announced that the Justice Department was merging its Organized Crime and Racketeering Section with its Gang Unit, a move he said would provide more experienced prosecutors and more resources for cases like those announced on Thursday.

But some federal, state and local law enforcement officials have privately expressed some concern about a possible resurgence in some quarters of the influence of organized crime families, particularly in Brooklyn.

But Holder stressed that organized crime remained one of the Justice Department's top priorities because mob investigations were "among the most dangerous criminals in our society." NYT/AP

Cofounder back at Google's helm

SCHMIDT

PAGE

SAN FRANCISCO—Google made the biggest management shakeup on Thursday since it went public, handing the reins of the company to one of its cofounders in an effort to get back to its start-up ways.

As it has grown to be the dominant force in Internet advertising, Google has lost some of its entrepreneurial culture and become a closed meeting between executives and insiders say in contrast to Facebook, Twitter and other younger, nimbler competitors.

To counter this, the company announced that Larry Page, its 36-year old cofounder, would take over as chief executive from Eric E. Schmidt, a technology industry veteran who was brought in a decade ago to provide adult supervision, as Silicon Valley calls it. Schmidt, 53, will remain executive chair.

"One of the primary goals I have is to get Google to be a big company that has the nimbleness and soul and passion and speed of a start-up," Page said in a telephone interview on Thursday.

He will start his new role in April.

The shakeup comes at a time of major upheaval in Silicon Valley. While Google remains immensely powerful and successful—as demonstrated by the stellar quarterly financial results it reported on Thursday—the company faces challenges on several fronts.

The sudden rise of Facebook has exposed Google's failures in social networking. The storied newcomer is the envy of the online advertising market. Meanwhile, while Google has had success in new areas like mobile and display advertising, it has struggled to launch out into other businesses like enterprise.

And for all its financial success, Google, which has 24,900 employees, is in danger remained by many top engineers as the most desirable place to work in the industry, the next generation of them start-ups has taken that place. Google has lost a string of valuable senior executives and lower-level engineers, including Sheryl Sandberg, now chief operating officer at Facebook, and Tim Armstrong, now chief executive of AOL.

The unspoken fear within Google is that it will become like Microsoft, a once-dominant company that is considered past its prime and perceived as stodgier, despite successes like Bing and Chrome.

The management moves—there are rumors of experiments in which Google was run jointly by a troika of Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Page as president of products and Sergey Brin, 35, the company's other cofounder and its president of technology. NYTIHT

Preparing early for a fight against flu

[illegible]

There is a pandemic under the headlines across the globe, here, sadly with diligent preparation. For example of the pandemic, H1N1 2009 virus (H1N1 pandemic) especially could get a strong wing in mapping an infectious disease from spreading further.

Here is some tips for animals as of sparking hands at covering the mouth when coughing, and don't catch the coughing & sneezing by hands.

Another important step is getting vaccinated, which the World Health Organization and given an individual latter protection against contracting illness during influenza or sneezing is not contagious.

Getting vaccinated or one of the most effective ways in preventing severe illness, secondary complications, and death is related to the flu. Setting the shot early ensures that antibodies will develop before the peak flu season. In general when the population increase likely to get it included in the area.

Here in the Philippines, there is a noted peak in influenza activity starting from June to August, which constitutes a major peak, and the months from September to November as a mini peak.

Vaccination would primarily benefit younger children, adults age less older and people of any age with certain medical conditions, such as chronic heart, lung, kidney, liver, blood or metabolic diseases (such as diabetes) or weakened immune systems.

Flu is a serious disease, which often causes its victims confined from bed for a few days or weeks, especially those who are not used to it. Healthy Filipinos can be a serious, potentially fatal infection. Although most people think of pneumonia as affecting only the lungs. People infected with pneumonia may experience complications in other parts of the body.

When these bacteria attack the covering of the brain (meninges), they cause meningitis. When they enter the bloodstream, they cause bacteremia or septicemia, which could be fatal.

We do not know when the next pandemic flu will happen and how severe it will be. It is important that every family member should practice good health habits to maintain healthy. With the economic crisis at hand, we can not afford to be sick and miss work, or pay for medical care or hospitalization. Prevention is still better than cure. Get your flu shot now!

Know more about flu, and more information on your doctor about

Microsoft officially launches Windows Phone 7 in the Philippines

Partners with Smart and HTC to enhance Filipinos' digital experience

Microsoft Philippines, in partnership with HTC Corp. and Smart Communications, Inc., today launched Windows Phone 7, the latest and much-awaited mobile technology from Microsoft, designed to optimize the mobile experience and give its users everything they love in just a snap.

Excitement

"We are very excited to bring Windows Phone 7 and introduce it to the local market," said John Rosero, Managing Director, Microsoft Philippines. "Microsoft and its partners are delivering a different kind of mobile phone to fuel new experiences by making everyday tasks easier to accomplish – getting more done in fewer steps and providing timely information easier and faster."

Microsoft has worked closely with its partners to create and deliver a different kind of phone that allows the users to do all those and come back to the real world in the quickest way possible. Windows Phone 7 was designed to deliver a mobile experience that has the phone working better for people, bringing together the things they care about most and helping them get things done faster.

"We are pleased to partner with Microsoft in launching Windows Phone 7 devices in the Philippines," said Napoleon Nazareno, President and CEO, Smart. "With Smart's superior network coverage powering Windows Phone 7 devices, we will provide mobile phone users a more productive and satisfying experience."

Unique Experience

Bringing a unique experience across the local market, the sleek and elegantly-crafted HTC 7 Mozart is the first Windows Phone 7-powered smartphone to be available in the Philippines.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Microsoft and Smart in taking the Windows Phone 7 experience to a whole new level with HTC 7 Mozart," said Mark Sergio, Country Manager for the Philippines, HTC Corp. "With the Windows Phone 7 technology powering the HTC 7 Mozart, users are given more control over the information that they need and are provided with a more enhanced mobile lifestyle."

The HTC 7 Mozart allows its users to have an all-around multimedia experience. It is equipped with the SRS WOW HD™ sur technology, enabling virtual surround sound for a richer listening and viewing experience. With Windows Phone 7 as the platform, it is also the first in the Philippines to offer the Zune music experience on a phone where users can play their music collection, synced wirelessly from their PC.

Unique Design

Its user interface is distinguished by a unique design and one of its most prominent and useful developments is the customizable Start screen with Live Tiles, facilitating a more personal experience, allowing its users to quickly see everything they care about on the screen. The Live Tiles provide the user with real-time updates from [illegible] as news, appointments or the status and profile pictures of friends. Now Live Tiles can be easily created from whatever content users want, such as applications, websites and music, with integrated experiences built from Microsoft's deep portfolio such as Windows Live, Bing, and Microsoft Office Mobile.

More Power

The HTC 7 Mozart and Windows Phone 7 collaboration gives its users the power to control their data, with the Windows Phone equipped with mobile versions of the Microsoft software used every day – from surfing the web with Internet Explorer Mobile to getting work done with Microsoft Office Mobile applications such as Outlook Mobile for e-mails, calendar and contacts, as well as Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote for managing documents.

Aside from its ease of use, the HTC 7 Mozart also looks stunning with its slim aluminum physique, making it a perfect fit for its user's grip.

This latest mobile technology breaks the current smartphone convention to help people quickly and easily find and consume data, information and services from the Web and applications. For complete information about Windows Phone 7 features and capabilities and the HTC 7 Mozart, visit http://www.windowsphone.com/ http://www.htc.com/www/product/7mozart/overview.html.

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A different kind of phone designed to bring together everything you care about the most.

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8 Mega Pixel Camera with Xenon Flash

Built in 8GB of internal storage

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Applicants must bring Valid ID, proof of billing and latest financial documents. Subscriptions are subject to a 24 month lock-in period. Smart Credit Guidelines and policies shall apply. Also available for Regular- Consumable at Pipeo cash out for Plan 3500. Promo runs until April 30, 2011. Per DTI NCR Permit no. 0580, Series of 2011. ASC Ref. Code: SubPmo2108

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AGUSTIN

REYES

Odds even: Battle begins

San Mig, TNT dispute PH Cup

By Manny R. Castillo

BACOLOD—In a series so even, a match-up so close, it will all boil down to who-ever wants it more as powerhouses San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text stare their best-of-seven championship series for the PBA Philippine Cup today.

Even court familiarity has been taken away from both squads as Game 1 will be played at the modern, 7,000-seat Victorias Sports and Cultural Center in Victorias City, marking the first time in 14 years that the league has taken a championship series game on the road.

"It will come down to who makes the right adjustment at the right time and who gets hot at the right time," offensive-minded opposite Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said before the team's practice yesterday.

The Tropang Texters and the Beermen wound up tied after the eliminations with 11-3 records, plastered opponents four-to-a-game each in the quarterfinals, before disposing off Derby Ace and Barangay Ginebra via 4-2 scares, respectively, in the Final Four to get here.

Nine wins each in 18 duels

They each have nine wins in 18 head-to-head duels in tournaments since 2006.

Reyes and Ato Agustin, his counterpart at San Miguel, even share the same birthdates —August 1, 1963—even though each man's major achievements have come in different capacities.

Reyes will be gunning for a sixth title as a coach, seeking two championships each with Purefoods and Coca-Cola and one with the Texters in the Philippine Cup two seasons ago.

Agustin, on the other hand, is among the league's most successful players, winning the MVP award in 1992 while playing for the Tectonics. He is also on the list of the PBA's 25 All-Time Greatest players.

"Whoever wants it or will push game will have the edge," Agustin said. "Everything seems to be matched."

"He may be inexperienced in years (of coaching)," testimonies bound. Glenn Sancha, Agustin's reliable point guard reliever, said of his coach. "But at game time, it doesn't show in the way he coaches."

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SKILLED: Ben Tinio ...

Salud on Barako's hiatus plan: Not so fast

By Mayang B. Castillo

MAKATI—Ramon Ang's planned "hiatus" ahead of the coming PBA Commissioner's Cup should last just one conference and be subject to several provisions that must be approved by team owners when they meet on Tuesday.

League commissioner Chito Salud told this down yesterday as he sought to make sure that every aspect of Ramon Ang's leave of absence is above board.

Salud said the PBA needs an assurance from team owner George Chua that the Energy Boosters will return in the Third Conference.

He said a couple of other issues—including a conditional deposit draft—should also be approved by the team owners before Barako Bull can hold its franchise to Smart Gilas for the Commissioner's Cup.

"We need to make sure that Smart Gilas is protected, the league is protected, the players (of Barako Bull) are protected and the team itself (Barako Bull) is protected," Salud told reporters moments after settling down to this congregation stay ahead of today's Game 3 of the Philippine Cup Gilas series.

Chua informed the league Wednesday night that Barako Bull would apply for a leave to give way to Smart Gilas' participation in the import-spiked tournament, citing "national team" as a reason.

Salud said that should Barako Bull go on a hiatus, the latter's owners cannot use the Smart Gilas brand name during its PBA stint, and that Barako Bull should honor all its contractual obligations to its players.

"First case a team say that it is on a hiatus of we allow us branding," asked Salud.

The commissioner also said that if the leave is granted, Barako Bull will not be entitled to recoup coin shares from television and gate receipts.

Barako Bull can only assure itself from paying players their salaries if these players are selected in the deposit draft that Salud plans to put in place for the conference.

A check with the Commissioner's Office revealed that the squad, which has missed the playoffs in each of the last five tournaments, has 16 players on its roster. Salud said he would like to have those players not up for other teams while Barako Bull is on leave.

"What will happen to the players if, say three months if Barako Bull is not playing," Salud asked. "If those players are not drafted, we also have to make sure that their contracts, even those of the staff, are all fully paid."

Gilas scuttles Lebanese five

Douthit, Tiu spark debut win

MARCUS DOUTHIT fired 16 points and hauled down 10 rebounds as the Smart Gilas national team repulsed Amihad Jabir of Lebanon, 79-57, Friday at the start of the 22nd Jones Cup International Tournament at Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The 6-foot-10 Douthit, the Filipinos' naturalization candidate, also had four blocks and a pair of steals in the final minutes, outlasting Smart Gilas' breakaway from a close 38-37 halftime after three periods.

Jose Cunio, adjudged the tournament's best guard last year, and Mac Baracael hooked-up Douthit with 10 points each while skipper Chris Tiu and Mark Barroca combined for 14 points as the Nationals opened their side bid with authority.

The Filipinos finished third last year in the tournament that drew veterans in field thrice import-laden in terms of height.

Marvin Lassiter and Aldrech Ramos were instrumental in fanning skilled's import duo of Tony Blake and Terrence Shannon, who baffled Smart Gilas with a variety of inside plays in the first half.

"They (Arabs) played with three imports but are undersized well," Smart Gilas manager Franklin Lim reported to the bosses from Dubai. "We struggled offensively before we came through in the fourth."

Cheered on by an army of Filipino expatriate workers, Smart Gilas battled Arabal neck and neck before Tiu hit a three-pointer and Douthit forced a pair of turnovers to take the lead for the Nationals during the five-minute crucial finishing kick.

"The support of our countrymen here really helped us in many ways," said Lim.

Smart Gilas faces Al Ittihad of Egypt today before taking a break on Sunday.

The Nationals will wrap up their elimination-round campaign against Shatash Club of UAE and Al Wahda of Syria on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. Jone Navarro

MARCUS Douthit fires a lower-high 16 points in his win over Arabal.

NO. Fits for third ...

So pulls off first win, whips Indian

WIJK AAN ZEE, NETHERLANDS—Filipino Grandmaster Wesley So outclassed Indian GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly in 50 moves of the Petroff Defense and vaulted into a share of third in sixth places in the Third Tata Steel-Corus Group-B chess championship at the de Moriaanse Community Center on Thursday.

The win ended a string of four draws for the world's fourth ranked junior player.

So entered the tournament with a 2.5 out of 5 score, including a win over Indian GM Parimarjan Negi.

Ganguly hastened his fall with a dubious queen push in the 20th move and then lost a knight for a pawn two moves later.

The 17-year-old Filipino sensation had a queen, a rook, two bishops and three pawns against the 27-year-old Ganguly's queen, rook and six pawns when the end came.

So moved up to three points, only one point behind co-pilot leader GM Loek Van Wely of Netherlands and half a point behind GM Zahar Efimenko of Ukraine going into the sixth round of the 14-player, eight-day 17 tournament.

Meanwhile, three-way GM Laurent Fressinet of France is 37 moves of the Bali to keep the sole lead with four points, while Efimenko dismissed GM David Navara of the Czech Republic to stay in second place with 3.5 points.

Top seed GM Fabiel Caruana of Miami outclassed Dutch GM Friso Nijboer, while GM Gabriel Sargissian halved the point with GM Nour GM Li Chao to join four 3 points.

Norwegian GM Jon Ludvig Hammer pulled off the day's finer win, a 56-move mid-feature of Dutch GM Wouter Spoelman.

Elite Southeast Asian exec president and Superior Player Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino said the experts Sos continue to play well.

In Friday's sixth round, So will play black against the 20-year-old Fressinet, seeded third here with an Elo of 2707.

PCCL toasts Player of Year Fajardo, Ateneo

By Cedrik Tupas

UNIVERSITY OF CEBU standout Jonas Fajardo, who was nominated the National Collegiate Player of the Year Award of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League yesterday, declared his intentions to play one more year for the Webmasters, quelling reports that he is set to turn pro this year.

The 6-foot-11 Fajardo said he is determined to lead the Webmasters to the PCCL crown this year, after the Cebu champions fell short last season.

Despite Fajardo's double figure averages, UC lost to eventual champion Ateneo in the semifinals, before losing to La Salle in the battle for third place.

"My goal is to give UC a title in my final year," said Fajardo, who received the highest honor at the event, dubbed "A Team," at the JLJ Building in Quezon City.

"UC taught me how to play and I owe the school a lot," added the 21-year-old big man.

More than his talent and skill, Siy Gamboa, the PCCL chair, cited Fajardo for his school loyalty. Fajardo opted to stay with UC despite several lucrative offers in Manila, including one from the Smart Gilas national team.

Ateneo, which dominated Adamson for the crown, received its perpetual trophy during the rite.

Adamson took the "Great Leap Forward" award for finishing second this season, after missing out on the Semi-Finals two seasons ago, while La Salle was honored with the "Excellence Award" for making it to the Final Four after its first round elimination in 2009.

The "Breakthrough Award" went to University of Cebu, which qualified for the Semi-Finals for the first time in 2010, while the "Gender Award" was given to Lyceum of Manila for making the national finals for the third straight year.

A SHAKE: Fajardo receives his award from Champions League tournament commissioner Jun Lipa as chair Roy Ramirez (left) looks on.

Interlocal U received the "Footwork Award" while lawyer Baldomero Falcones of SU was awarded "Motivator of the Year."

SPORTSWATCH

UST Quadri golf stakes new car

A KIA RIO will be the bone of contention for the UST Quadrangular Celebration Golf Tournament on Wednesday at the Oak Tree Golf Course in Manila.

The golf fete is limited only to 8 a.m. golfers, with an equestrial double tee and "scramble" at 1 p.m.

Tickets are priced at P4,000 each. Pre-registration is completed. For inquiries, call Melissa Grace at the Philippine Team Alumni Association Office (PTAA) at 3021-8043/8629.

Baseball tryouts today

BASEBALL PHILIPPINES resumes its search for aspiring players when it holds its second round of tryouts today at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

Officials said 32 players released up to and week's round. Forty players were supplied. Registration is the league's worker today's round.

Registration starts at 8 a.m., while the tryout starts at 9 a.m.

Odds even: PBA title series begins

From page A21

An interesting sidelight is the title clash is Sherman Jay Washington's professional debuts of the Sixers, his former team.

"I've been waiting for this day," Washington said last week of the grudge he holds against the team that traded him for Dudi rights in 2008.

"I had a rough time starting at Talk N Text," the 6-foot-7 Washington added. "I didn't start my career (the way) I had planned on. The end of my third year (in the PBA and with Talk N Text), I was kind of stuck, and joining Sta. Lucia was my saving grace."

It's nice that this (Washington's grudge) is brought up. This is a series of motivation," Reyes said. "He has a great motivation to beat us in the series and hopefully, we have the same kind of motivation to beat them."

Kelly Williams, Reyes said, will be tasked to handle Washington, even as Talk N Text will be playing a grueling three-fecta in the series after the Sixers' ousted guard reportedly lost his brother in a robbery incident Thursday night in the United States.

Talk N Text management reportedly offered Reyes the chance to attend the wake of his 22-year-old brother, but the latter opted to play the series opener.

"My players never cease to amaze me," Reyes said in his better account, referring to his namesake who's expected to play a utilityrole defensive in against Dondon Hontiveros and Jervi Santos.

Alex Cabagnot and Jimmy Alapag could prove to be a highly competitive match-up in the point guard spot.

"We're ready as hell," said Cabagnot, who has blossomed to superstar status since arriving at San Miguel last season. "My steps is bad. It's going to be done but God willing, we will come out on top."

"I don't think any team foresees a Monroney," said Alapag, considered the heart of the Talk N Text offense. "It will all boil down to execution because you have two evenly matched teams."

Pool greats all praise for Django

CLEAN LIVING: Marciado R. Migo

LONG REGARDED as best opponent to billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes, flamboyant Filipino-Taiwanese "Django" Dee remains as closely but quietly following in the footsteps of his longtime coach, mentor and kompadre.

The 47-year-old Bicolnonian, so gushes with the country's three gold medal winners in last November's 26th Asian Games held in Guangzhou, China—namely bowler Biboy Rivera, boxer Rey Saludar and cue artist Dennis Orcollo—were named by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) athletes of the year for their exploits here in 2010.

Rivera, Saludar and Orcollo, who bagged the PSA Awards Night—considered as the Oscar of Philippine Sports—are the main lures of the cases lately regarded national football woes, also popularly called the Azkals, who nabbed—no and nobody interrupting the semifinals of the prestigious Asian Football Federation Suzuki Cup.

The highly underrated Azkals, coached by Englishman Simon Mcmenemy and bankrolled by team manager Dan Palami, upset overwhelming favorite Singapore Men, 14), in Hanoi before 40,000 disappointed fans. The Philippines, however, lost to Indonesia by the slimmest of margins twice in Jakarta.

The PBA, the oldest media organization in the country, was founded in 1949, with the late Jimmy Lacsamana of the Manila Daily Bulletin as its first president.

Following the tradition of the leading newspapers in the United States of presenting annual awards to outstanding athletes of the past year, the PSA held its own version on April 15, 1950 at the Quirino Grandstand, with Rosalio "Rosal" Ilustrisimo "Mighty Mite" umpire, as the first PSA athletes of the year.

Going back to Django, the Filipino-Taiwanese had a very successful year in 2010. Like Reyes, who was ranked no. 1 in 2002, Ilustrisimo also made it to the International Billiards Hall of Fame in October last year following his victory in June in the tough World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Doha, Qatar. The prestigious pool event was first held in 1990.

"Django really deserves the crown," says cue historian, sportsman Antonio "Dindo" Zupo of the prominent Zupo Sports Store. "Like Efren, Django never had a lot and done so much for billiards."

Before he became known as Reyes' protégé, Django was never interested in school. He started playing pool at age 10, needing an excuse how extreme to suffer now his mom's excuses. At 13, Django won his first tournament. A year later, he started playing professionally.

Django quit high school after his second year. He later modestly pursued a career as a professional player, winning the Philippine Open in 1987.

Afterwards, he travelled to Germany, working at a pool room in Bicki's Café in Bad and competing in the German tour, having in grand fashion such luminaries favorites as Oliver Hermann and Ralf Souquet.

"Django sure made an exhibit in Germany," said Souquet.

Coming to Bataan in the early '90s, Ilustrisimo like Reyes became a crowd favorite, unchallenged in amusement, wondering how Django could break so hard after the game. The incredible stroke-like drain behind the back.

"I never play to the crowd," he said. "I'm just focused on my game."

Said Cl. Pilay, one-time Dallas, Texas, dynamo: "When routine Django set to intimidating in that he's completely unpredictable, unpredictably aggressive. He takes down that nobody would take down. I've never seen before, and he makes them."

No wonder, Ilustrisimo captivates the international pool scene the way Reyes does.

PWF head sure Diaz will make Olympics

By Mary Anthony Reyes

FRESH FROM winning a silver in China, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz is vying an Olympic berth when she competes in France in November.

Philippine Weightlifting Federation president Monico Puentevella said they are confident the 19-year-old Diaz will be the first 53-kilogram weightlifter to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics.

"Right now we are sure that she only has to down up and she'll easily qualify for London," said Puentevella, who is also the Philippine Olympic Committee chair. The Olympic qualifying are in Paris will be over Nov. 15.

Diaz is presently No. 6 in the world in the women's 58kg class after finishing runner-up in the China IWF Grand Prix in Fujian.

Diaz totalled 195kg (85kg in snatch and 110kg in clean and jerk) in the event, finishing behind gold winner China's Jiang Yaki (96kg-120kg). Taiwan's Hsieu (79kg-97kg) wound up third.

The event, held Jan. 14, was a big boost for the confidence of the two-time Southeast Asian Games champion, who was accompanied by her coach, Nestor Colonia.

Diaz pocketed $3,000 for her recent feat.

Cantada serves up beach volley event

TWELVE TEAMS will compete in the first event of the 2011 PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Series tomorrow at the Cuenca Sports Center in Taguig.

Athletes representing Ateneo, UE, U...Benilde and Arellano U will see action in the one-day event organized by Joe Cantada Sports.

The top two teams will receive cash prizes and trophies. The tournaments, as usual, will receive registration fees.

Complimentary breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be served to all participants and officials.

The season is scheduled every two weeks and is conducted under strict adherence to the rules and regulations of the Philippine Volleyball Federation. All officials of the event are PVF-certified.

CAMSUR EVENT

Teen star leads 'wake' tourney

GAMER. Great hopes at top rank tricks in the tournament.

By Jeanna W. Pays

PILI, CAMARINES SUR.—Top international riders put their wetsuit skills to test in the 2011 Ultimate Wake Championship this weekend at the Caruso Watersports Complex here.

Former world champion Jim Forbes of the United States and 12-year-old sensation Daniel Grant, of British and Thai roots, lead the favorites in the tournament pitting riders in all three major disciplines of the extreme water sport.

"There are still tricks that I want to do," said Grant, the Asian Wakeboard 2010 champion bid of as the youngest competitor in the pro division.

"It's kind of scary in some ways to compete with the older guys, but it's also fun."

The Philippines is the last stop of the World Wakeboard Association (WWA) World Series 2010, the only international event where ... [illegible] ... [illegible] ... [illegible]

Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiaw

SPORTS

Top Open bets in; Henin exits

WORLD No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark returns to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during their third round match. AP

MELBOURNE—Justine Henin's run at the Australian Open finished in the third round Friday, losing, 6-4, 7-6 (8), to Svetlana Kuznetsova just a year after ending the Belgian's first comeback to Grand Slam tennis.

It was Henin's first loss in a major to Kuznetsova, the former French and US Open champion, and her worst run at a Grand Slam event since Wimbledon in 2005.

Henin was only weeks into a comeback from a career break from the sport when she lost the final last year to Serena Williams, the third time in four appearances that she'd reached the championship match at Melbourne. Her comeback season was derailed when she injured her right elbow at Wimbledon and didn't play again in 2010.

"There are some days that are harder than others for a lot of reasons, physical, mental, your adversary also, sometimes a style of game that is harder to manage," the seven-time Grand Slam winner said. "But obviously I wanted to play, wanted to win."

Kuznetsova, who will meet French Open champion Francesca Schiavone in the fourth round, said she was relieved to get through to the night sets.

"I was not scared, I was not afraid when I went to the court. But of course I got tight," she said. "I kind of had a perfect match, 6-4, 6-4, serving ..."

Caroline Wozniacki, playing her major with the No. 1 ranking, advanced in a routine way. Also advancing were No. 6 Victoria Azarenka and No. 9 Li Na, a semifinalist here last year.

Nicolas Almagro, who won the 2009 title, struggled too comeback 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Julio Gaurgen of Germany.

Defending champion Roger Federer beat Xavier Malisse, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, to earn his 37th career victory at the Australian Open, overhauling Swedish Stilbong's Open Era record.

"It's very nice, but he still owns my mind," said Federer, a 16-time Grand Slam winner, as he acknowledged yet another record.

He will next play Ivanovic Ilo-Ivanka, who beat Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 3 Novak Djokovic's third-round match lasted only one set. The 2008 champion was leading 6-2 when his fetching Slava Cup running teammate Viktor Troicki to need with a muscle strain.

Djokovic next plays No. 14 Nicolas Almagro, who beat No. 27 Ivan Ljubicic, 6-4, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

Andy Roddick finished with 32 aces in a 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-2 win over Robin Haase while No. 4 Tomas Berdych beat Richard Gasquet, 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-2. AP

World of Sports

Phelps headlines US swim team for World Championships

COLORADO SPRINGS—Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte and Natalie Coughlin will lead the US delegation at the 2011 world championships in Shanghai, the last major international meet before the 2012 London Olympics.

Phelps and Lochte are set to swim four individual events each. Phelps could qualify for at least two of the three relays, while Lochte is set to swim at least one.

Natalie Coughlin, the women's team to include Katie Hoff, who failed to make the 2008 world team. Also from Phelps' hometown, Hoff, who returns after having a baby, and Teresa Crippen, whose brother Evan, an upcoming senior swimmer, died in December of a road in the Middle East.

Eddie Reese of Texas will coach the men's team, while Frank Busch of Arizona will coach the women. AP

Madrid beats Atletico, reaches Copa del Rey semifinals

MADRID—Real Madrid beat Atletico Madrid, 1-0, Thursday to reach the Copa del Rey semifinals for the first time since 2008.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 32nd goal of the season at the Vicente Calderon stadium by powering Sergio Ramos' 22nd minute cross past goalkeeper Diego de Gea. Madrid won the first leg, 2-1, and advanced, 3-1, on aggregate.

Madrid extended its unbeaten run against its crosstown rival to 20 games, a streak that started in 1988 and includes 14 victories.

Madrid, a 17-time winner who last lifted the trophy in the 2007-08 season, was conquistadors in 1995, plays defending champion Sevilla in the last four next week.

Madrid's last elimination cup victory was in 1993. It was also eliminated by Zaragoza five years ago in its last semifinal appearance.

Record 25-time champion Barcelona faces Almeria in the other half of the draw. AP

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THUNDERBIRD

Bobcats scramble past 76ers; Bulls thwart Mavs

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—DJ Augustin scored a career-high 31 points, including four free throws in the final 11 seconds, and Gerald Henderson added three big baskets late, as the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 109-97, on Thursday.

Avenging an overtime defeat to the 76ers four days earlier, the Bobcats won their second straight game after losing their first seven. Forward Tyrus Thomas would be out up two months with a knee injury.

Thaddeus Young scored 31 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for the Sixers, who rallied from an eight-point deficit to take the lead before Henderson hit three consecutive jumpers.

Andre Iguodala added 19 points, but missed a free throw and a jumper in the final minute as Philadelphia's second straight loss.

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 36 points to lead Chicago past Dallas, 82-77.

Rose shot 9 for 18 from the field, shooting a career-high seven of nine attempts from the free throw line in the absence of injured forward Carlos Boozer.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points to lead Dallas, while Jason Terry, Tyson Chandler and DeShawn Stevenson added 12 points apiece. Stevenson took all 19 of his shots from 3-point range, missing four.

After Rose's pull-up jumper gave the Bulls an 80-77 lead with 53 seconds to go, Terry missed a tying three-pointer with 15 seconds to play. Chicago's Kyle Korver then made two free throws to seal the win.

At Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge led 28 points and eight rebounds, and Wesley Matthews added 26 points as Portland beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 100-93, to match a season high with its fourth straight win. AP

PLAYERS and coaches practice proper shooting techniques at the Jr. NBA clinic.

Luzon, NCR mentors learn Jr. NBA philosophy at clinic

LU. BASES Jr. NBA coach Frank Lopez joined some 200 Filipino mentors in the first of two coaching clinic as the Jr. NBA Philippines program ripped off recently at the Francis Sports Center in Pasig.

Lopez shared his knowledge, experience and philosophy with the Filipino coaches, including those from the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines and the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Aside from Metro Manila coaches, other participants came from Cabanatuan, Baguio, Batangas, Camarines Sur and Palawan.

Lopez' credentials include being head mentor at the NBA Clinic Malls Challenge Basketball Camp in Guangzhou, China and the Dallas Mavericks and Orlando Magic basketball youth camps.

"Coaching is not just about skills and manner," said Lopez. "It's a way of teaching young people and making them learn important values."

At the conclusion of the school clinics, regional selection camps will be held in Manila to select the top 50 student-athletes who will participate in the Jr. NBA national training camp slated April 6 in Manila.

ATTURO Tires
DELINTE Tires
D8 DESERT STORM
TYRE SIZE
265/45R20
265/50R20
275/40R20
305/40R22
TYRE SIZE
265/40R22

IN THIS ISSUE
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BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

Net 'hot money' inflow hit $4.6B in '10

Highest level in 7 years; PH stocks get bulk of funds

By Michelle V. Remo

A BULLISH outlook on the Philippines and the rest of emerging Asia drove the net inflow of foreign portfolio investments into the country to $4.6 billion in 2010, the highest in seven years.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the amount was nearly 12 times the $389 million registered in 2009.

On a gross basis, inflow of foreign "hot money" reached $13 billion, more than double the $6.3 billion registered the previous year.

More than half, or $6.5 billion, of the capital inflow was invested in the country's stock market, pushing the Philippine Stock Exchange index to an all-time high last year. The balance was placed in peso-denominated government securities, time deposits and money market instruments.

"The bullish stock market performance in 2010 resulted from positive investor sentiment with the assumption of a new administration and strong macroeconomic fundamentals on the domestic front, inspiring greater confidence in the country," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
(as of Jan. 21, 2011)
44.480

STOCK MARKET
(as of Jan. 21, 2011)
▼ 55.20

PSEi falls below 4,000

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange index (PSEi) dropped through the 4,000 psychological barrier yesterday as selling pressure from both local and foreign investors pushed blue-chip counters lower.

At the end of the trading session, the PSEi settled at 3,991.64, down 1.38 percent or 55.20 points from Thursday's close.

Yesterday's results brought the PSEi's cumulative decline since its all-time high it recorded in early November 2010 to 13 percent—halting in the 10th all- addition of a bear market or a 20-percent decline.

"People are worried about inflation, at around Asia," according to a trader from a local brokerage house. "That could mean higher interest rates and less money for the equities markets."

Other major Asian bourses also trekked lower

(See stock market report on Page B2)

ADB study shows few firms use free-trade agreements

A STUDY by the Asian Development Bank showed that free-trade agreements (FTAs) have been virtually useless for the Philippines as businesses in the country have not been using these tools to boost revenues.

According to the ADB publication titled "Free Trade Agreements: How is Business Benefiting," only 20 percent of firms in the Philippines have applied and been using FTAs ...which are preferential tariff agreements between any two countries...to improve

(ADB, A2)

Stiff competition spawns more telco promos

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE MOBILE phone services rivals again slashed call and text messaging rates through promotional offers as the competition for a bigger share in the lucrative telecommunications market heats up.

In a statement on Friday, Globe-owned local mobile brand Sun Cellular announced the launch of offers giving unlimited voice call and text messaging services for its subscribers to Mindanao for only P30 a day.

The new "Sun Magic Zone Mindanao" SIM cards, available for only P50 each, allow subscribers to save as much as P20 a day while providing reliable and affordable unlimited face-to-face service in the area, the company said.

"Users may also make calls and send messages to subscribers of other networks, international numbers, or Sun subscribers outside of Mindanao by loading any Sun prepaid load such as Sun Call and Text Unlimited and Call and Text Combo," the company said.

Other affordable load denominations for Sun Magic Zone Mindanao include: P15 unlimited call and text plus 20 texts to other networks valid for a day; P50 unlimited call and text valid for a week, and P300 unlimited call and text valid for a month.

EDC raises $300M in bond offer

Power firm has secured proceeds from 1st corporate issue this year

By Amy R. Remo

GEOTHERMAL LEADER Energy Development Corp. has successfully raised $300 million from a dollar-denominated bond offering, said to be the first Philippine corporate bond issued this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, EDC said it already received the proceeds from the bond issue, which would fall due on 2021. It added that it priced its notes last Jan. 11 at the "tighter end of an earlier price guidance of 6.5 percent."

EDC's offer came in the wake of the country's successful global peso note issuance.

According to the Lopez-led firm, the debt notes will be listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Ltd.

Deutsche Bank and J.P. Morgan acted as joint lead managers for the transaction.

"The positive reception by investors is a clear indication of their confidence in EDC's ability to reinforce its position as the Philippine renewable energy market and its potential to expand and maintain its position as a leader in the geothermal energy industry. It is also a recognition of our strong track record and continuing efforts to manage risks in EDC operations on its growth platforms," said EDC president and COO Richard B. Tantoco.

Tantoco further noted that the proceeds from the notes would be used to fund EDC's projects, capital expenditures, debt servicing requirements and other general corporate purposes.

Currently, the country's largest producer of geothermal energy to the Philippines, Tantoco said it sees an increase in domestic geothermal as well as even more expansion, particularly in Asia and Latin America.

Over the next five years, EDC plans to put up greenfield power plants all over the country, increasing its 1,131 megawatts (MW) net attributable capacity to 1,310 MW. The company's expansion and rehabilitation projects expected to be completed by 2015 are the 110-MW Bacman geothermal plant unit 3; the 49-MW Tanawon and 20-MW Nasuji geothermal projects (2012); the 49-MW Tanawon and 20-MW Nasuji geothermal projects (2013); 50-MW Mindanao 3 geothermal project (2014); and the 40-MW Bangui geothermal project and 45-MW Rajamon project (2015).

Overall, the company hopes to increase its attributable generating capacity by 30 percent to 1,542 MW from the current 1,216 MW, within a five-year period starting this year, Tantoco said.

Also, EDC said it would continue reducing its exposure to third foreign currency exchange risks through the redenomination of its peso-denominated debt in peso and dollars.

Benguet unit secures loan for expansion

By Rizz T. Dichoso Jr.

BENGUET CORP.'s wholly owned subsidiary, SBMC Land Resources Inc. (SLRI), has signed a 5-year credit facility of up to P130 million with the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilExim) for the expansion of its Acupan mine project in Baguio, Benguet province.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BC said SLRI would use the loan to upgrade production of the Acupan mine from 150 tons a day to 300 tons a day.

SLRI has contract with Benguet Corp. to manage and operate the Acupan mine. Benguet Corp. said the Acupan project pioneered modern gold mining in the Philippines more than 100 years ago.

Benguet Corp. said the Acupan mine expansion project would enable management to take advantage of the high price of gold.

The yellow metal is enjoying increased demand and its price remains at $1,350 per ounce.

"With the price of gold at about $1,350/oz, the company expects to upgrade production of gold to 18,000 oz per year within a two-year time frame," said Reynaldo F. Mendoza, of Benguet Corp.

Also contributing to Acupan's expansion is a P350-million private placement deal with FPM Business Management Corp., which Benguet Corp. shareholders have already approved.

Filinvest postpones share offering

By Dustin L. Lucas

PUBLICLY LISTED Filinvest Development Corp. has postponed its follow-on equity offering on the back of poor price offers from potential investors, the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

In a disclosure to the bourse, FDC attributed "volatile market conditions" for the postponement of the offer, and gave no timetable when it would approach the market again.

The Gotianun-controlled firm was hoping to raise as much as P16.2 billion from the share sale, but investors responded as orchestrated by its lead bookrunner.

"While there was ample demand from investors for an offering to be completed, the board has decided that the proposed offer price of its equity shares would not reflect the true value of the company," it said.

TIC, which is the investment holding arm of the Ecleo clan, recently embarked on a six-city international roadshow for its share sale, the proceeds of which would have been used to acquire more real estate assets for its manufacturing activities, to boost its capitalization and to retire debt.

The roadshow was held by FDC officials and the company's underwriters in Singapore, Hong Kong, London, New York, Boston and San Francisco.

The offering would have been valued at P14.13 billion, but could have risen to as much as P16.27 billion, depending on investors' appetite for the issue. The sale would have involved FDC shares of one of the Gotianun family's holdings firms.

The company had also said that the funds would also be used for its activities in the infrastructure and utilities sectors, and possibly the power generation business.

Had it pushed through, the transaction would have seen FDC's public float rise from 6 percent to 20.5 percent.

UBS AG was sole global coordinator and joint bookrunner while JP Morgan Securities Ltd. was the issue's joint bookrunner.

Filinvest Land Inc., FDC's 71-percent owned property unit, develops affordable and mid-income housing projects as well as tourism-related projects.

The company, which has interests in real estate, financial and banking services and the sugar industry, is primed to allocate the bulk of its proceeds from the share sale to its capital expenditure and investment plans for the upcoming year"...an indication that any share sale will probably not happen over the near term.

Net 'hot money' inflow hit $4.6B in '10

From page B1

er. It said in a statement.

The top five places where the money came from were the United States, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Hong Kong. Together, these three countries accounted for nearly 82 percent of the total.

Strangers said the latest given before-tax investors in the Philippines were retail mounting debt securities in the Europe, the sluggish recovery of the US economy and the geopolitical tensions between North and South Korea.

Economists, both from the government and the private sector, have said that 2010 was a banner year for the Philippines as reflected by the sharp improvement in its economic fundamentals.

The economy grew at an unusually fast pace of 7.3 percent in the first three quarters, inflation eased benign at 3.8 percent, exports registered a sharp rebound and foreign-currency reserves hit a historic high. They said the positive sentiment about the easy of the Aquino administration has also boosted confidence among businesses and consumers alike.

The surge in foreign portfolio investments was also attributed to the intention of US policymakers to pump in huge money into the American economy to ameliorate its slow rebound from the recession in 2009.

Some of the liquidity in the United States went to emerging markets such as the Philippines, where interest rates were higher.

Economists noted, however, that most of the portfolio investments into the Philippines and its neighbors were short-term in nature. They said that while foreign investors were optimistic about the country's economic prospects, these fund sources did not 'want' to make a long-term bet on the country.

PSEi falls below 4,000

From page B1

es worries that rising inflation in China and its other countries would prompt central banks to raise interest rates, which would attract more funds into fixed-income investments and away from stocks.

On the PSE, all major indices declined yesterday led by the mining and oil sector (down 3 percent), amid weakness in index stock Philex Mining as the price of gold in the international market fell.

Shares of index heavyweight Ayala Corp. was also down sharply yesterday to P383.00 apiece, for a single-day drop of 5 percent.

Metrobank, SM Prime Holdings and Meralco also saw their shares price edge down, while those of the PLDT closed unchanged.

Trading activity on the bourse was relatively heavy with P4.69 billion worth of shares changing hands. Forty-three counters advanced while 101 stocks declined and 42 remained unchanged.

Traders predicted choppy trading sessions in the week ahead, worrying that the broad market would likely continue to test lower support levels.

"There will be trading opportunities on individual stocks, but the market would still be on correction mode," one trader said. — Dustin L. Lucas

ADB study shows few firms ...

From page B1

doing businesses.

The study had 155 respondent firms from the Philippines. They ranged from small-to-medium-size companies and were into various sectors, including transport, food and electronics.

The study also covered five other countries, namely Japan, China, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

The results in the five countries were somewhat similar to that of the Philippines: few firms, accounting less than half, were using FDIs, which are meant to boost intra-regional trade and overall productivity of participating economies. According to the book, there were several reasons for the low utilization rate of FDIs, one being the lack of awareness among companies about the existence of such agreements.

Suzukito Rizada, president of the ADB, said during the book launch that there was a clear need for countries to launch information campaign about FDIs.

Another reason was complexity of the provisions of FDIs and the existence of several FDIs. It may be noted that firms that wanted to avail themselves of the benefits of FDIs must apply for those with participating exporting countries.

— Michaela V. Reyes

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UPDATING OF THE
MISSIONARY ELECTRIFICATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
RURAL POWER PROJECT
CONSULTING SERVICES
DOE Grant No. TF022748

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE) and with grant assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is implementing the Rural Power Project (RPP).

Relatedly, the Republic Act No. 9136 otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" or "EPIRA" has mandated DOE to formulate and implement the Missionary Electrification Development Plan (MEDP) which aims to define the strategies and activities of the Government in ensuring the provision of electricity in areas not connected to main transmission systems. As a rolling plan, the DOE is mandated under the EPIRA to update the MEDP on an annual basis.

The RPP seeks a consultancy services that shall prepare and develop the 2012-2016 MEDP, consistent with the plans, programs and projects in support of the overall policy goals of the Government on rural electrification and development. The 2012-2016 MEDP shall incorporate strategies to improve the process flow from the preparation of MEDP to annual implementation plans of the RPP Program. Specific goals include the transparent and responsible planning as well as project development, efficient use of DOE-MIL, the increase in the participation of private sector in the PSP Program, and the promotion of Sitio-PV as part of the mainstreaming business of DUs regulated by ERC and identification of RE for applications for missionary areas.

A wide variety of expertise and extensive experience is likely to be required in rural electrification, electrification program planning and policy development, electricity regulations and rate setting, power project development particularly for small scale applications and RE-based generation technologies.

The DOE now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers published in January 2011 revised in September 2011, January 1 2006 and May 2004.

DOE reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, to annul the selection process, and to reject any Expression of Interest prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected party or parties.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (8:00 to 17:00 hours).

Mylene E. Capongcol
Project Director, Rural Power Project
Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
Department of Energy
4th Floor, DOE Bldg, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: (632) 479-2900
E-mail: mecapongcol@doe.gov.ph and/or capongcol@yahoo.com

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be delivered to the address below by 03 February 2012, 5:00 in the morning or may be e-mailed directly to capongcol@doe.gov.ph or capongcol@yahoo.com. The opening of the EOIs shall be done on the same day, 5:00 in the morning at the Asec. R. A. V. Diaz Conference Room, 4th Floor, DOE Building, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila. Late EOIs shall not be accepted.

Ramon Allan V. Diaz
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
4th Floor, DOE Annex Building
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Metro Manila

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
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Job Status/Salary :

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Overall Responsibility :

Minimum Qualifications :

Job Location/Unit :
Job Status/Salary :

C. Financial Analyst III

Overall Responsibility :

Minimum Qualifications :

Job Location/Unit :
Job Status/Salary :

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GREGORIO A. ASILO

beloved Patriarch of his clan

passed his Creator peacefully on January 18 at the age of 82, leaving behind his Matriarch

wife Clara M. dela Rosa

daughters Alicia A. Pangilinan & husband Reynaldo
(grandchildren Ivan, Nonie & Bailey)
Josefina A. Pandilan & husband Melchor
(grandchildren Mike, Melvin, Jeuneg & Mae)
Corazon A. Serrano (†) & husband Danilo
(grandchildren Charlie, Carla & Candy)
Adita A. Hernandez & husband Clarencio, Jr.
(grandchildren Ryan, Maryjoe & Kristine)

sons Benjamin & wife Clarita
(grandchildren Trish, Maryjoe & Ej)
Roberto & wife Cecilia
(grandchildren Tana, Sonejo, Irish & Russa)
Gregorio, Jr. (†)
Antonio & wife Ma. Elisa
(grandchildren Apple, Tenten & Louie)

and his many grand/great/children

Visitation may be viewed at the family residence at Adriatic St., Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City. Funeral services will be held starting at 6:00 p.m. on January 22.

Interment will be at the Manila North Cemetery on January 23 after a Requiem Mass at 10:00 a.m.

"Rejoice with me; I vanished thoroughly in search of what was lost. For I found my sheep! Rejoice with me! I found what was lost!" Luke 15:6

"There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day." 2 Timothy 4:8

LUCIA "Nanay Lucing" INTON Vda. De VIACRUSIS

of Olongapo City and Sunad, Bataan

17th Death Anniversary

Her husband Alfredo Sr. (†); children Cesar and Belen, Diego (†) and Mercedes, Boy, Bong and Nanding (†), Jess and Susie, Cloe (†) and Tess, Boy and Emma, Virling and Jess; Bong and Lou; grandchildren Fay, Jun, Albert, Anna, Rachelle, Marjolee, Paul, Randy, Eric, Olivia, Leo, Rowena, Tek, Lucia, Jay B, Shaya, Anne, Bea, Andrew, Les, Francis, Jonty, Beth, Lucia Ria, Charlotte, Mario, AJ, Alec, Lauren, Jacqueline and great grandchildren; relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

The Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches on January 22, 2011:

St. Columban Parish Church, Olongapo City	6:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Subic, Olongapo City	6:30 AM
St. Joseph Parish Church, Olongapo City	6:00 AM
St. Aida Parish, City of San Fernando, Pamp.	5:30 PM
St. Paul Parish, Dela Paz Norte, San Fer., Pamp.	6:30 AM
Holy Family Parish Church, Calaklan, SFC	6:30 AM
Franciscan Sisters, Aglipay	10:00 AM
St. Therese Parish, San Jose, Pob. Cam. Sur	6:30 AM
St. Joseph Parish, San Jose, Pob. Cam. Sur	5:00 PM
San Miguel Archangel Church, Manila	6:30 AM
St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Tipaco, Cam. Sur	6:00 AM
Sta. Rita Parish Church, Olongapo City	6:00 AM
St. Vincent Parish Cabalan, Olongapo City	6:00 AM

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Nutrition protocol reverses CVDs, cysts, kidney stone, gout

By Tonyo B. Salazar

A NUTRITION PROTOCOL adopted by nutritionist-dietitians all over the world is raise in the Philippines.

When the program was first use by 10 spine nutritionist-dietitians 10 months ago, the most striking result from the 10 participants is that their lunch was the significant reduction of lipid levels. to the extent that some of the test subjects who were scheduled to go under the knife for lipid-related heart problems didn't need the operation afterward.

Nutritionist-dietitians Rhonnelle Rhine Sacrana, BrPH, MPH, RND, is a professor and a 33-year vegetarian health advocate, revealed this nutrition protocol in a recent business health interview at the Coronary Health Improvement Project. Also known as CHIP, which has helped more than 50,000 people reversed their diseases, is now stocked in the Lung Health Research Center in California by Hans Diehl, Ph.D., director of the medical center's lifestyle medicine institute, and a National Institutes of Health-supported research fellow in cardiovascular epidemiology.

The patients in the first batch included a medical doctor with high cholesterol and high triglyceride, a 35-year-old male entrepreneur whose post (300-plus mm) and level) debilitated him for years, a female teacher scheduled for surgery who had four cysts spread over both breasts and two ovaries, and a 58-year old male with kidney stones.

One of the patients whose name and health story have been withheld was allowed to disclose is that of 58-year old Cheffie B. Cabrera, an erstwhile candidate for a heart pump transplant. While waiting for his scheduled surgery, he was invited to enroll in the CHIP program. Cabrera said that after one and a half months of religiously following the nutrition protocol, his doctors declared him out of danger and no longer needed the surgery.

Modify diet protocol

Verona, who volunteered Cabrera's interventions, said she was allowed by Diehl to modify the CHIP diet protocol to allow indigenous, locally-grown foods, and to enable the preparation of the foods to be feasible locally.

"The pumping of (his) heart became normal, the heart enlargement disappeared, and (the) kidney stones on the CHIP protocol, the eyes all but disappeared," Verona related.

The female teacher, at 38, was also scheduled for surgery to remove the four cysts. But after three months on the CHIP protocol, the cysts all but disappeared, Verona related.

The male gout patient, who could hardly walk, used the plant-based diet protocol and was able to walk again, after a few months, Verona related, the patient's reversed to a meat-based (chicken, pork and beef) diet and his gout not only returned, but was even worse than before. He finally saw the difference and resolved to stick to vegetarianism for good.

The 33-year-old male suffering from painful stones was scheduled for laser surgery when he tried the CHIP protocol. Aside from going vegan, Verona advised him to drink more fluids, especially that of "sobagang bahok ng mais" (corn silk in broth). "The stones came out. Fortunately the stones were not spike-shaped," Verona said.

The new CHIP schedule is from Jan 16 to Feb. 26. Registration is until Jan. 25. It will be held at the Manila Adventist Medical Center. The procedure includes laboratory tests before and after the program.

The CHIP protocol kit from the United States will also be distributed. For inquiries, call or text Verona at 0927-4243221 or 0920-9555555.

The program is a consultant of the Seventh-Health Institutes and Lifestyle, and author of the books "Healing Wonders of Diet" and "Cooking Smart". She is also a professor of the Adventist University of the Philippines, and the Adventist Institute of Advanced Studies (both institutions advocate vegetarian nutrition).

Seventh-health Ministries offers free seminars on Sundays or as scheduled. Log on to www.seventh-health.org.

Beyond rote learning

DISCOVER

Marianne Santiago Bonifacio

FOR MANY people, the word "learning" is synonymous with the word "memorization." To them, the true test of how much knowledge they've gained from a class is dependent on being able to recall and report back as many facts and figures as possible.

A recent study by American psychologists suggests, however, that when it comes to retaining information, a person is worth a thousand words.

That is to assume that the act of memorizing a physical subject would not encourage the size, color or weight of the object, but use people often assume that the act of memorizing memory does not change memory," wrote psychologists Jeffrey Karpicke and Janell Blunt from Indiana's Purdue University in their article published in the Oct. 21 issue of the journal Science. Those who memorize rote learning methods like writing multiples of recalling information instead of relying on lists could help them learn more complex ideas, such as, they noted, those presented in science classes.

Those educational research and practice but focused on enhancing the processing that occurs when students encode knowledge—that is, putting knowledge in memory," they said. "Far less attention has been paid to the potential importance of retrieval to the process of learning."

In one set of experiments, Karpicke and Blunt had several groups of college students read short science articles and then use one of two methods to see how much information they'd retained.

One group of students was asked to type everything they remembered about the article into a computer after reading the article. They were allowed to review the printout then go back to the computer and answer again with their what they'd remembered. After the second trial, the researchers found that the group had recalled two-thirds of the information presented in the articles.

A second group was allowed to keep the article on hand while mapping out the ideas presented in a diagram. "Where the concepts in a set of materials are represented as nodes and relationships among the concepts are represented as lines linking the nodes together."

The process of drawing out associations between concepts and details using lines and arrows between points allowed students to see how they understood the information in the article. Afterward, Karpicke and Blunt found that the group was able to recall and map out about three-quarters of the information from the article.

Concept maps

A week later, the students were called back in to take a test involving both short answers and essay questions about the article they'd read. The results indicated that the students who'd made concept maps did "significantly better" on the test than did students who merely jotted down everything they'd remembered.

"Retrieval is not merely a read-out of the knowledge stored in one's mind... the act of reconstructing knowledge itself enhances learning," Karpicke and Blunt concluded in their article.

The surprising why diagrams seemed to help students retain more information and use it in the test, the researchers said that process of creating associations seemed to allow people to store up with cues they could use later on to get from one fact to another. Making a list of points about different kinds of information didn't give people so mentally look back to the main ideas, which they could pursue more easily when recalling groups of words linked by a series of arrows and lines.

E-mail the author at msantiago@manila.edu.ph

Hail Tau Mu!

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo

DR. JIM Sanchez, my local in the Tau Mu Sigma (Phi Pharmacy) at the University of Santo Tomas, is one Filipino surgeon I'm proud of. And that's not because he is a fraternity brod.

Jim and his team have been going around the country "living" a lot of young boys' hernias for free in makeshift operating rooms in impoverished barangays, or even inside their barangay halls. The whole world is instantly converted into an improvised surgical room.

Usually hernia surgery for children is done under general anesthesia, but Jim has pioneered doing the surgery under local anesthesia which saves a good deal of money for patients, and simplifies the procedure to an extent that it seems to be no more complicated than a simple circumcision.

He has done this type of surgery countless times, and although it can literally be a handful to execute with some boys drooling to the highest pitch they could reach terribly before the anesthesia is given, the outcomes are perfectly pleasant with little child and parent problems. Jim has told me that the issue for the ruthless surveyor they have swallowed.

Token of gratitude

Jim relates the story of one of those boys whose hernia he has repaired. The small boy came back to him with his mother with a pack of bopis as a token of his gratitude. He duly appreciated Jim and handed the pack saying, "Maraming salamat po, Doc." The boy need not say anything more.

Jim was touched by the young boy's gesture and could feel his gratitude expressed with all sincerity. He kept the bopis pack inside their refrigerator at home and fascinated everyone not to open the pack and use the bopis. Every time he sees it, it is a constant reminder of the many more little boys who need help in the many impoverished communities in the country. And Jim knows he and his team can't still can.

Jim and his team have been doing their medical missions without any hype or publicity, and with whatever meager resources they have. I don't think he gets support from any government agency or politician. His friends from Rotary and fellow Tausan—in how levels in the fraternity are called—offer donations from time to time, but there are times when he and his team have to dig deep into their own pockets to subsidize their medical missions.

Jim, your fellow Tausan bros and I'm sure many others salute you and your team for your pioneering acts of charity despite the odds and challenges. May you clone yourself a thousand times.

I'm inclined to believe that the Tausan ideal of self-less service has had a strong influence on Jim. I remember that service, charity, truth and ideals of academic and professional excellence, leadership with integrity and brotherhood were repeatedly inculcated in all the bros members; and each member pledged to show those ideals not merely in words or spoken words, but in a way of life.

65th anniversary

One of the oldest medical fraternities in the country, the Tau Mu Sigma Phi is celebrating its 65th anniversary next week with celebrations from Jan. 26 to 28. Its Rotary Bauza, the current president of the Tau Mu Alumni Organization, says that many bonds from there will be renewed during homecoming to get a feel of the "timeless brotherhood" which the University has always been known for. Although one may not be in constant touch, every local knows that most of the bonds are just a phone call or e-mail away.

Rotary invites all locals and friends of the fraternity to join in its activities including the whole-day symposium on Jan. 27 at the UST Medicine Building, the fellowship night at Club Filipino in Greenhills on Jan. 28, and the grand reunion and induction ball at the Manila Hotel on Jan. 30.

Jim's medical team is just one of the teams headed by the Tausan Alumni Association's regular medical missions to many parts of the country. Foreign-based locals also come home regularly to participate in these missions. For those who are interested to learn more about the Tausan medical missions and other activities of the fraternity, you may contact Brod Rotary Bauza at 0928 910-9998.

With the lofty projects the fraternity has been undertaking, the locals truly deserve the complimentary salutation members greet one another with—Tau Mu!

Searching for the better brain food

By Charles E. Rubio

PEANUTS! A hot cup of fresh-brewed coffee! Blueberries! Is there such a thing as brain food?

For years, we have been searching for that magic food, one that could improve our brain and memory abilities as well as reduce our future risk of developing dementia (referring to a group of illnesses that involve memory, behavior, learning and communicating problems).

Why so much attention? This is because our brain health plays a critical role in almost everything we do: Thinking, feeling, remembering, working, playing and even sleeping. If you lose this organ, everything else in our body goes off as well (much like a power station supplying electricity to cities and towns).

It is so valuable that although weighing only 2 percent of total body weight, the brain uses approximately 20 percent of the body's energy at rest.

No magic bullet

"Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet or boost IQ so make you smarter. However, a balanced diet, regular exercise as well as sleep have the potential to affect our brains' health and mental function," neurologist and psychiatrist Gerardo Custodio Salazar.

Salazar, who chairs the Department of Neurosciences of Lucena United Doctors Hospital and Medical Center, added that sugar, particularly glucose (which our body metabolizes from the sugars and carbohydrates you eat) is our brain's preferred fuel source.

While balance would suggest high fiber whole grains, dairy and fruits, the doctor reminded the public not to indulge in overeating, ensuring a balance diet of each of the food groups as a more preferred approach.

However, one food item catching the interest of researchers worldwide is the oil derived from wild oily fishes (as opposed to farm-raised counterparts that have grown to crowded and very unnatural environment) that have been found to be an incredible food that keeps the brain in tip top shape.

The said fish oil found in wild oily fishes is found to be rich in omega-3 fatty acids, particularly the DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) and EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid).

Considering that our brain is made up of 60 percent fat and about 50 percent of that fat is DHA (one of DHAs key functions is to improve communication between brain cells) whose link to brain health is most interesting.

Many benefits

According to one researcher at the University of California Los Angeles's Brain Research Institute and the Brain Injury Research Center, DHA and EPA essential fatty acids may provide many benefits, including improving learning and memory and helping fight such mental disorders as depression and mood disorders, schizophrenia and dementia.

Scientists from the University of Louisiana have found that DHA, derived from fish oil could help protect brain tissue and promote stroke recovery.

"It may be necessary to discuss clear conclusions but the studies and findings regarding Omega-3 fatty DHA/EPA fatty acids and brain health are inspiring," Salazar said.

Considering that DHA and EPA fatty acids are not produced by our body and could only be found in certain species of fish such as salmon, tuna, herring, as well as anchovies, mackerel and sardines—which are small in size and short-lived and thus, have the least chance of having those toxic pollutants covering their bodies.

To further ensure the quality of their products, the fishes are harvested from the Pentawaters, considered one of the few remaining waters on the planet that are still uncontaminated with deadly pollutants (these same suppliers also operate under a system of careful government and industry controls regarding the management of sustainable stocks in the regional Pacific Ocean).

The harvested fishes are then sent to a Norwegian partner that specializes in extracting fish oil that local high quality and safe to consume.

FPI welcomes 2011 with ISO recertification

FUJITSU PHILIPPINES Inc (FPI), a leading IT systems integrator and IT services provider, recently announced that it has retained its ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 20000-1:2005 certification following a stringent audit overseen by SGS, an internationally accredited certification body.

The scope of certification is: The provision of IT System Integration, IT Infrastructure Maintenance, Managed IT services and Network Solutions to contractual clients in accordance with Service Catalog version 3.00.

"I would like to congratulate everyone in FPI for this achievement. We are renewing our efforts to straight away go on ISO 9001 and ISO 20000 certified company. This audit result reflects FPI's commitment to customer satisfaction through the consistent application of industry best practices by our frontline and back office staff at all levels of the organization," said Peter D. Tan, FPI president and CEO.

ISO 20000-1:2005 is the international standard for Information Technology Service Management released by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). ISO 9001:2008 is the latest international standard for quality management systems released by the ISO. ISO/IEC 20000 promotes the adoption of an integrated process approach to effectively deliver managed services in meeting the business and customer requirements. ISO 9001 promotes the adoption of a process approach in the development, implementation and improvement of a quality management system. Both standards emphasize the achievement of customer satisfaction by meeting customer requirements, and the continuous improvement of design, production, customer management and other business processes.

According to quality assurance office head, Ophie Inallangco, "The audit team concluded that FPI has established and maintained its integrated quality and IT service management system in line with the requirements of the two standards and the ability of the system to systematically achieve the requirements for products or services within the scope and the organization's policy and objectives." FPI is committed to achieve total customer satisfaction through "quality and IT service management policy."

In 2008, FPI was the first Philippine company to have its information Technology Service Management (ITSM) System certified against the ISO/IEC 20000-1:2005 International Standard.

SMART RECEIVES 3D I/O WIND VANE AWARD

Smart was one of six recipients of the Wind Vane Award given by the Society's weather forum Degree of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Smart was the only telco recognized for its contribution and support to the disaster risk management projects of the agency via collaborative projects that include Project Rain-Storage, a weather monitoring and disaster alert system for Davao City and the construction of automated weather stations in Davao and Leyte. Smart Public Affairs Head Ramon Isberto accepted the citation from Pagasa-DOST Director Nathaniel Cruz and DOST Deputy Secretary Mario G. Montejo. Also pictured are MS. Arlou Arcilla-Jurado and Pagasa-DOST Weather Bureau Assistant Chief Nilo Abon, Assistant Director Rhodora Corazon and Pagasa-DOST Weather Bureau Officer-in-Charge Esperanza Cayanan.

A NEW 'O' IN KOH CHIU'S LIFE

Popular and multi-talented host-actress Koh Chiu added a new 'O' to her life by becoming the official product endorser of the new Goya Pocket Bottle. The launching was held recently at the Goya Pocket Bottle Showroom in Makati City. Joel Ibrahim, Marketing Manager of Goya Philippines, Inc. presented the new product to the media. Koh Chiu added a new 'O' to her life by becoming the official product endorser of the new Goya Pocket Bottle. The launching was held recently at the Goya Pocket Bottle Showroom in Makati City. Joel Ibrahim, Marketing Manager of Goya Philippines, Inc. presented the new product to the media.

NOKIA OPENS STORE AT SM SOUTHMALL

The world's number 1 mobile phone brand Nokia, recently opened its newest store at the Ground Floor of SM Southmall in Las Piñas City. The new Nokia store gives South Luzon residents easier access to Nokia's newest and its wide range of mobile phones and accessories. The new outlet is the third Nokia concept store recently rolled by Mega Nokia Network Inc. Present during the store opening were (from left) Counselor Carlo Aguilar, Congressman Mark Villar, Nokia general manager Bernd Hiebl, Mega Cellular senior business operations manager Mario Ilustrisimo, Mega Cellular president Ferdinand Buenaventura and Nokia key accounts manager Rudolph Santos.

EMBERRA EVENT SETS GUINNESS RECORD

Emberra Gun Migpuri the president and CEO (seventh) C. Filipinos' class to the Guinness Book of Records for Records (GBRR) certificate while GBRR Ledgebuster Sheyla Gabaci (center) of Antipolo. Today, Inside an enclosed pavilion in Metro Manila during the event held last Nov. 21 in Naga City, Around of 1,045 people in Naga City participate in the 45 shot of Emberra Gun Migpuri for a period of two hours to beat the previous record posted in Manila.

EMBASSENCE ENDS 2010 WITH MEDICAL MISSION

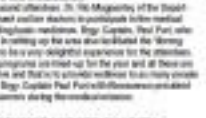
Ekonomiser Inc. Chairman Dominic Christian offering distributor Mariano Mendoza Handing Packages" The mission's medical mission held last Dec. 19 at Barangay Luyunan, Northwest Tarlac. Apart from free check-ups, the residents of this last barangay were also given free medicines and vitamins. Around 300 medical services were made available during the medical mission which according to Dra. Emma Guerrero, EEB ambassador, gathered more than a thousand attendees. Dr. Ma Magsaysay of the Department of Health Regional Hospital assisted doctors in conducting the medical tests while providing basic medicines. Brgy. Captain, Raul Pura, who actively assisted the team in setting up the area also facilitated the "dancing guard" activity that proved to be a very delightful experience for the attendees. More community service programs are lined up for the year and all these are made possible by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Christian Sr. as many people as possible. Photo shows Brgy. Captain Raul Pura with Ekonomiser president and CEO Eric Emmet B. Guerrero during the medical mission.

SMART LITTLE COOKIES BAKE FOR CHARITY

The recent holiday season had been an especially busy one for Smart Little Cookies. It started with Nia, 11, and sister Lian, 7, witnessed six batches of chocolate brittle cookies. Friend and neighbor Lian Lim-Lopez's cookies were sold to raise funds for the Philippine Christian Foundation that invites people to support children in need. Patricia Lim-Lopez's daughters used Cream Biscuit kit (Oreo, Jesse Flour, whisk and butter cup) posted their endeavor.

FIESTA FAIR MANILA

The Philippines offers many festivals that it has fun and foreign guests would like to see, share and value. They can feel the festivities all year round during the 2010 Fiesta Fair Manila to be held from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. The 23-day trade fair organized by Prime Asia Trade Partners and Cubbies Advertising Inc. followed by the launch of the new Goya Pocket Bottle 170 commercial. Shown in photo are (from left) Cubbies Adgraphics Inc. President Ferdinand Buenaventura, Goya Philippines, Inc. general manager Joel Ibrahim, Mega Cellular senior business operations manager Mario Ilustrisimo, Mega Cellular president Ferdinand Buenaventura and Nokia key accounts manager Rudolph Santos.



Planners and Committee Organization Philippines will take showcase awards-class products and goods for tourists and foreign shoppers.

Fr. Suarez to hold healing mass at Sandiri Batalao

RENOWNED HEALING priest Fr. Fernando Suarez, CC of the Congregation of the Cross Healing Ministry will be officiating a bachelorette mass and healing session today at 3 p.m. at the New Bank of Sandiri Batalao in Nasugbu, Batangas. Registration for this healing mass starts at 1 p.m. Aside from the mass, family bonding activities such as marshmallow roasting, bike/bicycle trails and healing messages will be held at the Sandiri Batalao Resort. Fr. Suarez's first mass healing in April 2011 with a refreshed and rejuvenated body and soul. Sandiri Batalao is located at KM 101, Batalao, Nasugbu, Batangas. Call 0915-4276 or 858-3295 or visit www.sandiribatalao.com for more details.

Philippine Lighting Conference and Workshop

THE 10th Philippine Lighting Conference and Workshop hopes to open its doors to more people with the theme "Mapping Lighting in the Philippines" and design with natural light, sustainable lighting design for developing countries, as well as the different advanced lighting design techniques and products currently used abroad. The Comprehensive Lighting Design Workshop with Light Cities, a three-day workshop to be conducted by Louis Clair is scheduled on Feb. 23 to 25 at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and The Philippine Lighting Conference Manila 2011, a one-day conference with the theme "Mapping Lighting in the Philippines" is slated on Feb. 28 at the Dusit Thani Manila Hotel, Makati. Visit www.lightplanner.com or call +632-6321600, e-mail info@lightplanner.com for more information.

MyCitiHomes expands territories with new home

CITIHOMES BUILDER and Development Inc. starts the new year with major changes in the company. The first of these is the acquisition of its new office space in the heart of Makati. Another is the personalization of its brand from a full-scaled name to a one-brand, "MyCitiHomes" with the tagline "Building from the heart," and the addition of new executive officers. In line with its expansion plans in Bulacan and Cavite, MyCitiHomes acquired its new office, which is located at the 23rd Floor, The Valero Grand Tower, 328 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Official business hours at the new office are Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An inaugural blessing will follow on Friday, Feb. 4. For more information call MyCitiHomes at 864-3041 to 54 or visit www.mycitihomes.com.

Peri-Peri Charcoal sizzles anew at SM Megamall

LOOKING OF woody, spit-fired-over-charcoal and delectable chicken now marks a reason to celebrate as Peri-Peri Charcoal scores with the opening of its latest branch at the SM Megamall Entertainment Mall. Who else makes Peri-Peri Charcoal stand out from its competitors? It's the long, tangible briefness that give its aroma and juicy atmosphere, and the SM Megamall branch is no different with the first Peri-Peri Charcoal branch at the SM Aroma at SM City North Edsa. With enough seating capacity, Peri-Peri Charcoal is sure to fill any group. Its menu and experience the best mouth-watering dishes is brought to you by Peri-Peri Charcoal, now at the 3rd Floor Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

First Metro Investment launches new website

FIRST METRO Investment Corporation (FMIC), the investment banking arm of the Metrobank Group, recently launches its redeveloped website, www.firstmetro.com.ph. The move is part of its brand building campaign as well as an initiative to make its investment products more accessible to investors. According to FMIC executive vice president Roberto Juanchito T. Dayo, it is special where both local and overseas investors, and possibly issuers and international institutions and businesses who are interested to do business here, may access FMIC's and its subsidiaries' financial products, services, and solutions through the Internet. In the new website, investors can view final information about the individual investment sales of the fund company's treasury's financial instruments – bonds and Loans Mutual Funds, and First Metro Securities on-line stock trading facility.

'Go on Wheels with HP' promo

All of PC biggest promo this year, 'Go on Wheels with HP' takes off over high-rolling adventure with bid. of prizes to be won including a brand new car and other cool rides. Consumers who purchase selected HP notebooks until May 31 get a chance to win an amazing new Honda City, a Honda Red Scooter, and commander bike. Lucky participants in each corresponding promotions from HP including the HP Compaq CQ42, HP G Series notebooks, HP Pavilion DV3 HP Pavilion DM4 notebook, and the HP Pavilion desktops, entitles a customer one entry to join the promos. To join, customers must fill up the provided warranty card and promo vouchers, and drop them at the store where the product was bought. Deadline for submission of entries is on June 3. Targeted raffle draw will be held on June 11 at the HP Financial Plaza at the 27th Floor of Robinsons Equitable Tower, Ortigas Center, Makati City. Lucky winners will be notified through phone, e-mail, and registered mail, and the list of winners will also be posted on the official HP Facebook account.

Pilmico completes feedmill expansion

PILMICO FOODS Corp has completed its feedmill expansion, doubling its capacity to produce added high-quality feeds and enabling the company to meet the growing demand for good feeds in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. The feedmill is located at the Pilmico milling complex in Bacolod-Cruz, Iligan City. Expansion work on the feedmill began in June 2008 and took a year to complete. Ultimately, the company is the Netherlands that specializes in designing and building complete range of feed milling machinery, turned over the feedmill to Pilmico management in July 2010.

Stephen M.R. Covey in Manila

FRANKLINCOVEY CO and the Center for Leadership and Change Inc., in partnership with Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, are bringing distinguished speaker and New York Times bestselling author Stephen M.R. Covey to Manila for Leading at the Speed of Trust, an executive forum. His groundbreaking book The Speed of Trust has been endorsed by notable CEOs and management gurus such as Jack Welch and Warren Buffett. The forum will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. For inquiries, call 817-0730.

Special review sessions on general pathology

A REVIEW on general pathology for medical students preparing for local and foreign exams is being offered by a group of professors in staffing. The review classes shall be during weekends starting February. Venue is in Taguig Highlands. Interested parties may call Dr. Ignatius Villoga. Classes are full-table, certified or they at 0920-6729-51 or e-mail jtpathreview@yahoo.com.

Arellano High School Batch '48 Valentine's Party

CLASS BIRTH, '48 of the Arellano High School (Manila Burth) will hold its traditional 1st Quarter Meeting/with a Valentine's Party on Feb. 12, Saturday, at 10 a.m. at the ground floor of the Remedios Building of Old Ballpark in Remedios Circle, Malate. Guest of honor will be Dr. Ignatius Villoga. Classes Call. The whole day affair is being coordinated by its VP Sabing Javier Bid, tel. 882-8033 and 982-8044 Rita Trinidad Ind. tel. 318-3492). Members are requested to bring along their spouses for a fun-filled afternoon of camaraderie and gift prizes donated by birthday celebrants.

Classical Spanish Guitar Concert at CCP Little Theater

INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila, in celebration of the 2011 Philippine International Guitar Festival and Competition, presents a classical guitar concert featuring renowned Spanish guitarist Alex Garrobo on Jan. 27, 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Little Theater. Garrobo will also be conducting a classical guitar workshop for advanced students on Jan. 28 at CCP Entrance to this concert is free on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please contact The Instituto Cervantes at (632) 3442-7 01 or visit www.philippines.cervantes.es.

BUSINESS

PH joins Asean Coffee Federation

By Rose T. Dalvandre

SUBSCRIBERS: If the Philippine coffee industry can help up their pace in Southeast Asia under the Asean Coffee Federation, to enhance cooperation and promote regional coffee interests in the growing Asian beverage market.

In a statement, the Philippine Coffee Board (PCB) said that coffee industry people and associations in Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand recently met in Jakarta, Thailand and Pakse, Laos to organize the federation.

According to PCB, the last decade has seen young Asians drinking more coffee and not just traditional tea, which is known as the Asian beverage of choice.

Coffee consumption in all Asian countries has been increasing over the last few years, the PCB said.

The Philippines is not an exception as consumption has grown to 65,000 metric tons per year while production has remained steady at 33,000 to 35,000 metric tons per year.

Industry data show that even with imports from other Asean countries outpacing local needs, it still costs the country more than P4 billion to import its requirements mainly from Indonesia and Vietnam.

"It is so inspiring to hear from other coffee players that our Hinabacan and Cavite coffees are world class," said Nicholai Mutti, who represented the Philippines at the organizational meeting of the Asean Coffee Federation along with PCB exchair Pasko Juan.

"We just need to increase our production as our Philippine coffee is very much expected to be used around Asia," Mutti said.

"Our Barako and Civet coffee are special, to coffee with high demand," added Juan.

"We Asians should taste coffees first from Asian, before we promote other origins. There is so much good coffee in our region, we need to support each other in promoting our Asian coffees," she said.

The group took part in a study visit in the 2500 hectare Dao coffee plantation in the Champasak province of Laos.

The Asean Coffee Federation will also soon have Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam as its most huge this year.

Meanwhile, the group hopes to see an increase in coffee production in all Asean countries, and to some extend as a region to encourage Asian coffee drinkers to drink Asian coffee.

The PCB said it will be reporting the Asean group's activities to government agencies involved in coffee production and marketing such as the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Industry.

Slower growth in store for PH banks

Sector coming off 'banner year' in 2010, BSP says

By Michelle V. Ramos

PHILIPPINE BANKS will likely see slower growth in profits this year following an unusually strong income performance in 2010, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"Last year was a banner year for banks; I don't think 2011 will be as strong. If 2010 was a great year, 2011 will be a good year," said BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr., head of the bank regulation unit of the central bank.

Espenilla said, however, that while a slower growth in bank profits is likely this year, the banking system will remain generally healthy and highly liquid.

He said income sources of banks will continue to be broad-based, as prospects for lending, treasury operations and other businesses remain favorable.

Data from the central bank showed that resources of the banking system, boosted partly by deposits, grew by 7 percent last year to P6.7 trillion from P6.2 trillion the previous year.

Moreover, latest data from the central bank showed that combined net income of banks in the country stood at P91.3 billion in the first semester of 2010, rising by 24 percent from P73.3 billion in the same period the previous year.

The central bank official said income growth in the last quarter was because the economy rebounded from a significant slowdown in 2009, when the global economic crisis was at its height.

This year, he said the country's banking system will likely remain cash rich and thus able to help boost consumption and investment demand.

"Credit is expected to remain strong," Espenilla said.

According to industry projections, bank lending may grow by around 19 percent this year, the same pace as in 2010.

Aurelio Montinola III, president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said banks will continue to have appetite for lending, but noted that the growth in credit would also depend on the number of investment activities that will require bank financing.

He said interest rates on consumer and corporate loans are likely to remain primarily benign for 2011 given that the central bank is not expected to dramatically raise its key policy rates. Montinola said interest rates may rise only beyond the end of 2011, but the pace is expected to be moderate.

Some economists have noted, however, that while bank lending is growing, bank can afford to lend even more.

They said the over P1 trillion in deposits by banks in the BSP facilities that much of their resources are idle. The country could get an added boost if these resources are used for lending.

Moreover, economists said, bank branches are highly concentrated in Metro Manila and other urban areas, while remote communities continue to have minimal access to banking services.

Concentration of banks in urban areas is partly blamed for lack of access to credit by micro- and small enterprises in remote areas.

CAUTIOUS? Pedro Leyo Jr., head of the National Economic and Development Authority, gestures during a conference at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP). Pedro says on Thursday he was hopeful annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the fourth quarter of 2010 will hit 6.1 percent, pushing the full year 2010 average growth above 7 percent. AUTHOR

Gov't gains ₱100B from Malampaya

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has received roughly P100 billion from the Malampaya gas-to-power project off Palawan since it began producing natural gas commercially in 2002, said a leading energy official.

According to Energy Undersecretary Jose Layug Jr., the government's share in the project surged after the consortium operating the Malampaya power project recovered its initial investments in 2006.

Under the service contract agreement, 74 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of natural gas would go to the contractor to cover the investment cost.

The remaining 30 percent will be shared between the government and the consortium on a 60-40 basis, respectively. Once the contractor recovers its investments, the 30 percent share would then increase, allowing the government to gain from these petroleum projects.

"It is why we encourage oil and gas exploration, 9800-out systems, we take 60 percent of the net income. If we have more Malampayas, the country could be rich," Layug said.

The $4.5-billion Malampaya power project currently provides natural gas to to the 1,200-megawatt (Mw) plant of Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco); 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants, all in Batangas.

Royal Dutch Shell, through Shell Philippines Exploration BV, owns a 45-percent stake in Service Contract 38, which covers Malampaya.

Chevron Malampaya LLC owns the other 45 percent stake, while local PNOC Exploration Corp. holds the remaining 10 percent.

To further boost the local petroleum exploration sector, Layug said the Department of Energy wants to submit to Congress next month a proposed "exploration law" which will address and clarify all the taxation and profit-sharing issues that have hounded petroleum service contract holders.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Official Festival Representative

Bob O'Leary to Chair the Asian Marketing Effectiveness Jury

17 January 2011 – The Asian Marketing Effectiveness Festival, a joint venture between Haymarket and the organizers of Cannes Lions, has announced that Bob O'Leary, Head of Global Marketing for Citi, will lead the Jury at the 2011 Festival.

Citi, a division of Citigroup, is one of the world's leading financial institutions. Taking up the position in 2008, one of Bob's first assignments was to launch a global campaign which would introduce Citi as the new company name and confirm the company's brand purpose of delivering financial success for its clients. Following this, Bob has successfully guided the company through a global financial crisis which he credits for bringing the brand back to basics and ensuring that the public had a voice that removed the monetary and financial self-centredness.

Bob's career has seen him work with top clients including The Lance Jays, Allergy Foundations, Time Warner Cable, American Chubb Insurance, renewal and positions at Pizza Hut, where he helped to re-launch the brand introducing the stuffed crust pizza which became a billion dollar brand, and top advertising agencies such as Saatchi & Saatchi.

"We are delighted to welcome back Bob as the Jury Chair for the 2011 Festival. In this role he has shown current expert to recognising and rewarding the best campaigns which he does whilst leading a panel of agency professionals and top clients. His professional career is testament to his ability in ensuring global creative excellence and effectiveness, making him the obvious choice to preside over the jury," said Tim Walden, Managing Director of Haymarket Media Asia.

Commenting on his appointment, Bob O'Leary said: "I am very excited to return as Jury Chair for the 2011 AMC Awards for Advertising and Marketing Effectiveness. Last year was a tremendous. From our action exciting, eye-opening opportunity. The standard of entries was incredibly high and I look forward to seeing what exciting offer this year. Most importantly however, the Festival provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate together as a marketing community – see you in May in Shanghai."

Entries for the 6th Asian Marketing Effectiveness Awards are now open. For details of how to enter and further information please visit: http://amea.asiaxpert.net/entry

Demand for bread to follow economic growth, bakers say

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE THE recent increase in bread prices, bakers are confident that consumers will continue to patronize bread products, with growth echo in line with the expansion of the economy.

Walter Co, president of the Philippine Baking Industry Group (Philbaking), said that growth in demand usually follows the improving of growth of the overall economy due to the way Filipinos eat bread.

He said bread could be a gauge of how well the economy is going, as consumers usually increase bread consumption when the economy is good.

During hard times, bread consumption dips as this gets sacrificed for other alternatives, usually rice or instant noodles.

Also, bread demand could also be indicative of employment and education conditions, with bread being one of the usual choices for "baon" of employees and students.

"When the economy is good, bread consumption is good also. It's an on-the-go food item that Filipinos tend to buy more often they have more disposable income," Co said in an interview.

Local bakers recently hiked prices of loaf bread by P1 and of 10-piece packs of pan de sal by 50 centavos.

An executive order eliminating tariff on milling wheat for the next six months, however, may mean prices to go down by 20 centavos for loaf bread and 25 centavos for pan de sal in 10-piece packs.

But any bread price reduction will not take effect until around the second or third week of next month.

Co also said that bread consumption grows in line with population growth.

According to data from the National Statistical Coordination Board, the country's population is expected to reach 95 million this year, from 93 million in 2010.

Per capita income is even reaching P136,411 this year from last year's P100,338, while gross national product is projected to hit P10.5 trillion from the previous year's P9.4 trillion, still according to NSCB data.

For 2010, he said Philbaking was still waiting for industry data to come in before declaring final growth figures.

His own company, Creative Baking, maker of the Pullet Bread line of "healthy" bread products, grew 5 percent in terms of volume last year.

Co said prices of Pullet Bread remained the same, as the company wanted to boost bread consumption. Losses stemming from high production costs, to this point, were being absorbed by the company.

BREAD prices are on the rise

Lito Cruz D. Manganaan

PROPERTY

UN eco awardee's worst nightmare: A world filled with sewage

By Tonyo N. Salazar

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, the word "green" wasn't yet a marketing catchword, and Manuel Oñorbe wasn't particularly concerned with any marketing clichés when he started developing and building the Hilton Cebu Resort & Towers.

He was concerned about basics, yet tangible problems, such as the dwindling resources of water. Cebu was surrounded by pristine waters, but he was distressed by the thought of them being transformed into dirty sewage, and then eventually his four children, grand children, and great, great grandchildren would "inherit" the consumption of seawater.

So, between the time he conceptualized Hilton Cebu Resort & Towers in 1996 and in its launch in 2005, he embarked on a really eco-sustainable project that would protect the clean waters of the Mactan channel, and would follow the ideals of sustainable development and the conservation of water resources.

For this visionary effort, in 2008, Oñorbe earned the Eco Award for Water Conservation, handed over to him by Dr. Olivia le O'Castillo, chair of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production and Prince Willem Alexander of Netherlands, chair of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board for Water Institution.

The award was in recognition of the hotel's system of desalination of salt water, rainwater collection, recycling of black and grey water and reducing water footprints—all adaptation strategies for climate change prescribed by the award-giving body. The award was also an acknowledgement of his being a role model for people suffering from water shortage.

Seaside developments

"When I was conceiving this project, I looked at all the angles," Oñorbe explained. "I realized that our country's infrastructures had been very poor. We do not have a proper sewage system. Until today, clean water in many places in our country is still a problem. I am sure small developers in the coastline in Mactan that were just literally building septic tanks for their sewage. During the time there were fewer tenants about 30 years ago, the chemicals [seeds] of coliform bacteria in the shoreline. There was no proper sewage system or black water processing plant or grey water processing plant," he told to-scout Property during a phone interview.

He added: "We cannot put clean water by the shoreline. Only God can. We are going to bite the bullet, put the initial big investment because if we don't do this, one day our great grandchildren will be swimming in our toilets."

Oñorbe continued liaison of Singapore to design and construct the hotel's zero-waste water facilities. To run the system, the buildings were designed and built with separate pipelines for the collection of gray water from the drain of the baths and wash basins, black water from the water closets, and a line for the rainwater. Separate pipelines were also built for the supply of potable water (for drinking, washing and shower) and non-potable water (for flushing toilets and gardening).

The black water processing plant converts water from the toilets into bacteria-rated clean water and channeled to a storage tank that is used for gardening and irrigation. "In a resort, you use a lot of water for gardening," Oñorbe pointed out.

CEBUENA (second from left) is flanked by, from left, Dr. Olivia le O'Castillo, Prince Willem Alexander of Netherlands, Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"Walk on many people who don't have clean water to drink, using clean water to garden will be such a waste," he said.

The treated disposal line is collected from the rain and linked from the melted ice water from the hotel. The big ice machine that functions 24 hours a day produces ice that is at times unused. When they melt, these go into grey water processing plant as water for flushing.

Copper pipes

Oñorbe also used expensive copper pipes in the entire project. Copper is used in developed countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, France, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. Normally, in our case, buildings would use galvanized iron which would eventually gather rust. Sometimes, Oñorbe said, plastic pipes would be used. But in the long run would be unhealthy for people and the environment.

Oñorbe employs his own engineering team (20 full-time engineers in the complex) and uses complete equipment to repair the resort's own problems.

Oñorbe recalled that a long time ago when his family would live in their hotel rooms (during their many travels around the world) the children would look at him quizzically as he checked the water faucets, lights and television and turn them off whenever they would leave.

"The children would ask, 'Pa, why do you have to do that, let's go, we're paying for the room anyway.' I told them: 'We may have paid for the room but if we waste all these water and electricity and electricity is poisoned by oil, what will happen one day is you will be paying for it. These resources will be depleted, they will be very expensive than even you, your grand children or your grandchildren will be paying for.'"

Thank goodness for such common sensitives, Oñorbe said his children grow up thinking of conservation all the time.

The Hilton Cebu Resort & Towers, Oñorbe hopes, would remind the local resort industry in the same manner.

Motel chain evolves to also attract corporate clients, traders

Text and photos
by Charina E. Ibañez

MENTION "VICTORIA Court" and the images that spontaneously come to mind would certainly make the owners step in blush.

Somehow Victoria Court would be the last place families, businessmen, or travelers would go to should they decide to relax, hold meetings or try a different ambience while staying in the city.

Yet, somehow, there are the groups of clients who are quietly reserving rooms at Victoria Court these days.

"We're making headway in more and more individuals see Victoria Court in a different light. Yes, we still cater to couples seeking quality private time together but at the same time we have evolved to attract new clients including companies seeking a different and more relaxing venue to hold their staff outings, business parties as well as businessmen or trainees looking for a place to stay while in the city for a couple of weeks," explained Danilo Baldemoro, Victoria Court hotel/property manager.

Baldemoro explained that aside from the two branches located in Pasig City (Ortigas), Victoria Court is also present in Tuboson City (North Cebu and Balamban) and in the cities of Las Piñas (Talon Two), Malabon (Bonanza) and San Fernando in Pampanga.

Expanding

"We are expanding slowly as more and more people are appreciating what we have created in each of the brands," Baldemoro said.

According to April Louise Tanoyo, Victoria Court marketing manager, each branch has rooms with interior decorations unique from its sister outlets.

"So we try to make our rooms much more well-appointed than most of the hotels and **rooms here in the Philippines, we made** sure we come up with rooms that have character," Tanoyo explained.

The best examples of these types of rooms include the Mind Eater as well as the themed suites like the Wonder, Mirabilis Rouge and the Dead Office.

Noted in Court chief designer Omar Bakon explained that these rooms designs don't stay very long as they get refurbished (as always carried) or revamped (in about five years), except of course if customers request that such room designs remain much longer.

"We travel abroad, do research, search for movie scenes that would provide us the perfect furniture and themes to place in the rooms. But more importantly we talk to customers through survey forms and phone requested on what sort of room styles they seem or are thinking of. In this way we are able in some up with rooms that create distinctive guest experience," Palencoid said.

Baldemoro added that because of the size and the exquisite and distinctive touch given to the interior design, Victoria Court is able to attract group reservations.

"We regularly get inquiries and reservations from groups planning to hold their corporate meetings or parties. We even receive groups and individuals, both local and foreigners, who will be staying in Metro Manila for a couple of days or weeks while they are undergoing training or accomplishing short-term projects. Many of these new customers somehow get tired of staying in rooms offering typical room design and services. They wanted something unique and our rooms are perfect for them," Tanoyo said.

She said they even entertained celebrities and politicians who find Victoria Court suites an appropriate venue to hold their family gatherings or get together for friends or even staff meetings.

Careful attention

Victoria Court officer Stella Pablo also added that the careful attention being given to the design and everything that is placed inside the guest suites and function suites are also applied to the more affordable standard and de luxe rooms.

"Our rooms are indeed much cozier and bigger than most rooms offered by bigger or more expensive hotels and resorts," Pablo said, explaining that refurbishment means the family will choose, they will be guaranteed plush treatment and reliable room service.

"Aside from the air-conditioning, cable TV, private bath and Wi-Fi connectivity, other rooms also have a jacuzzi. Those to room amenities help create pleasurable moments as guests stay at Victoria Court," Pablo said.

Indeed, Victoria Court has evolved from mere intimate destination for adventurous couples to a suitable venue companies and individuals seeking a different ambience here in the city.

THIS GREEN shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur by Sparch Architects, was conceived as part public park, part shopping mall and part urban promenade with a partially open atrium. It is estimated that energy use will be reduced by 30 percent and quality also in the outdoor spaces and the amenities standing from the green cores

Is your favorite shopping mall green?

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amando ale Arens

SHOPPING AT the malls has become a lifestyle in the last 20 to 30 years. In the past, one usually goes down town to do most of the shopping, leaving the heat, dust, garbage along the streets and the noise of the city to get the cheapest prices for goods and services. In Sucbase, Divisoria or Cuenca.

The only way to go down town then was by public transportation, or if you were bold enough, by private car, which caused parking problems. There was no mass public transport then. There was much less traffic but it was a very inconvenient way to do one's shopping.

Today all that has drastically changed with all the conveniences of the modern air-conditioned shopping malls found in many parts of the country.

This is specially true in Metro Manila with so many malls making it a shopper's paradise. Manilites now come to Nata's new shopping capital."

The new shopping malls being built now are massive and gigantic structures that dominate the landscape. Their number is expected to increase in our country as the demand for consumer goods continues to increase, thanks to our healthy growing population.

This is in stark contrast to shopping malls in other countries that are closing down due to the recession and dwindling populations.

The construction of shopping malls has a considerable impact on the environment in terms of land development, water conservation and energy saving efforts.

Indoor air quality

Fortunately many of our malls are striving to take green initiatives to minimize their impact on the environment.

Is your favorite mall green?

First, ask if it has good indoor air quality or IAQ. Is there sufficient air exchange? Is the air you breathe pleasantly cool with no trace of stale air? Strictly speaking, the absence of a flowed odor that you smell in the lobby should only be confined to the lobby.

The restrooms are very good testing grounds for climbing the quality of the indoor air. Are they stuffy or humid? Is the air foul especially during rush hours?

Once area where many shopping malls fail with regard to indoor air quality is the parking areas. When you get out of your car after parking, do you feel nauseous due to car exhaust buildup? Many malls buildings now have carbon monoxide sensors that bring in fresh air automatically to prevent people from getting sick from toxic air to fluorescent and parking lots. Garbage collection and clean-up of parking areas are also very important to safeguard health.

Another area of concern is parking areas is security. If lighting and space planning are well done, a shopping mall going back alone to her car is not exposed to danger.

Mall parking entrances to logistics have automated systems with locators to tell motorists where empty parking slots may be found.

Is your favorite mall security dependent on artificial light (sigh)? Or is there building exteriors become there are not enough windows to protect mall goers from too much sun glare?

Natural ventilation

Incorporating natural, not artificial vegetation inside the malls is another easy way to spot if your mall is green. Plants enhance temperature and enhance indoor air quality. The leaves absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, the organisms humidity indoors.

Another viable way to find out if your mall is green is to the way it uses precious water. Check out the lavatories in the toilets. Do they use electronic sensors or not when

BY YVONNE BELO

THE OWL Office Suite is among the most popular for corporate clients because of the attention given to mimic the office of the president of the United States in the White House.

YES, the gumbis at the entrance of Paseo Suites is functional and (a)Mal in the original Italian meaning bowl.

A WOOD-carving panel and bubble back chair from the North side terrace and emphasize height in this semi-room. Spotlights emphasize the details of the woodwork

The allure of Abaca

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asturias

I WAS in Cebu in the past weekend to participate (building ranches into two showroom projects we were working on: Sedona Pan by Alveo Land, and 1830 Residences by Ayala Land Premiere.

We had given ourselves two days to complete our work, but fortunately things fell into place sooner than expected and our second day left us free to explore Cebu, for curious, we didn't. It was the weekend of the Sinulog Festival, so the city was exploding with merry-makers, and though the Sinulog march was held we prepared to join in with the festival, because, we had planned a quiet day by the sea.

Having heard of his reputation as a gastronomic destination and a quiet boutique hotel with excellent service, we thought it would be a good idea to book a night at Abaca. It was a Friday late afternoon when we arrived. At a glance, the resort looked as expected: fashioned similar to the boutique resort concepts of Nasa Kuanan or an Amanpuri, or the mini-chic house in Amanpulo like Bali and Phuket. Its main quiet conquest with all of the resort among on build a because of land. I have to admit that

THE ALLURE B3-3

Rancho Palos Verdes: Sta. Lucia's southern sanctuaries

SINCE ITS 1997 entry in Davao, Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., one of the top real estate brands in the country, continues to deliver quality real estate developments in the city's landscape.

Its very first project, Rancho Palos Verdes and Residential Estates, is a manifestation of this commitment. Located in Matina, Buhangan, Davao City, Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Residential Estates is a joint venture between SLRDI and Hijos Negro. It currently stands as one of the largest development projects in the area.

Rancho Palos Verdes is sprawling over 164 hectares of lush open lands. Set to be "the South's finest golf community," and like most Sta. Lucia developments, the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Residential Estates is also equipped with modern living conveniences meant to usher a comfortable and luxurious lifestyle.

Built for homes within average lot sizes of 300-600 (lot may lot) square meters, it offers its residents and future homeowners a welcoming feel with the inspiring collection of its fully landscaped developments.

Rancho Palos Verdes is truly a residential haven. All residents can relax and enjoy with their family and friends at the RPV community clubhouse. Complete with a multipurpose function hall, swimming pool and basketball and tennis courts, it is a perfect venue for social and recreational gatherings.

Necessary lot residents and RPV club shareholders and members are treated with a spectacular view of the 77 hectare, 18-hole golf course developed by none other than world-class golf designer, Rudy Bay.

Complementing the golf course is the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Clubhouse where club shareholders will definitely be enticed by the grand and well-thought of scenery of that massive development. They are also given access to the Davao golf club facilities. Fully equipped with a well-stocked pro shop, men and women's locker rooms, a massage room, a jacuzzi, saunas, fine dining restaurant and a stylish lobby.

Another distinct privilege for RPV's luxury lot residents and club members is the Rancho Palos Verdes Sports and Country Club. Located in the Davao Riverfront, members enjoy lifetime use of the club's leisure gym with jacuzzi and sauna rooms and beach-type swimming pool. It also offers other sports amenities like lawn tennis court, indoor badminton and basketball courts, bowling, table tennis and billiards.

Experience living by the fairways for less than P 17,000 a month. You can also enjoy a lifetime membership at the RPV Country Club for only PG,000 a month, payable up to three years.

RANCHO Palos Verdes country club

Is your favorite . . .

From page B1

and pop-up fixtures to limit water use? Do they have aerators to conserve water? Are water closets low-flush types and the urinals waterless models?

Energy efficiency

Energy use has probably the biggest impact on the environment, especially for our country that is still so dependent on fossil fuel for its energy needs.

Experts insist on sensitive so much energy to power the air conditioning, lighting, elevators, escalators, appliances, pumps and other equipment so that mall patrons are comfortable. Energy consumption is closely monitored by a sophisticated computer system called Building Management System or BMS. They even finally give the building engineers real-time feedback so as how the mall is using energy and making adjustments if needed. This is the best way to check if the building is energy-efficient.

Loss of the local, particular

Shopping malls are dominant structures that can endanger the natural and social environment. They symbolize globalized capital and can erase cultural differences since malls everywhere contain the same products and brands.

Malls can contribute to fostering a consumer mentality in our materialistic society that looks at a person not as much for what he is but rather for what he has.

The greening of malls should very much include preserving local culture and positive values by preserving cultural chores, customs and exhibits in the shopping malls.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadejesus@gmail.com.

BAMBOO and rattan strip covering make for a unique pair of door handles. Their rectangular lines and asymmetry soften the rigid lines of the door panels.

The allure of Abaca

From page B1-1

naturally, I move was excited to try the local dune to stay in the resort that walking through its natural surroundings got me anticipating the overnight stay.

Give some privacy

Despite its tight space, the layout of the buildings managed to give some privacy to the resort units which were reasonably three stories of two units side by side, for a total of six units, plus two pool villas tucked away into another corner of the property. A small spa facility sat close by. The restaurant was located in another corner facing the sea, with a veranda and a staircase that led down to the poolside. Fortunately, from the main entrance, the units are still hidden as diners and are for hotel guests only. Old growth trees and large lawns covered like natural landscape barriers which supported the main main structures that kept private and public areas fairly well defined.

The rooms were spacious, solid, simple yet luxurious. Walls were painted off-white, floors were in engineered timber (which I thought was a very considerate thing to do not to give in to the temptation of using solid wood in a country where tree-farming is in its infancy and illegally logged solid timber is still prolific everywhere) and a pitched ceiling (we surmised a third floor suite) was painted white as well. Accentuating the ceiling were trusses clad in wood and were designed to be both structural and decorative.

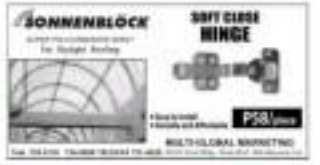
The bathroom had what looked like tinted granite floors and accent walls. Other than that, the rest of the walls were painted. Gauze-like curtains draped the doors while wooden blinds on the windows harnessed some privacy without killing off the natural sunlight. The furniture was an assortment of rustics, abaca, sea grasses, some core or skirt, bamboo and rattan, some of which are traditional functional items like an Ifugao rice bin used as a banquet or center table. Very "Pinoy."

Not overwhelming

The furnishings were not overwhelming nor did they feel lacking. Other pieces like the floor and table lamps seemed to be Cebu-made pieces as they raved with leaf accents, bamboo and rattan. What I liked very much were the décor because unlike many hotels in the country, it showcased items very carefully selected pieces of visual work sourced from the northern to the southern Philippines: cutmunok boats, Ifugao wood carvings, tall Mindanao drums and Iranon ladder chairs. Even the ornamental double door leading to the bathroom had bamboo and rattan weave handles, very indigenous and obviously handcrafted with all their imperfections. But this was the beauty of what was in abaca: everything made by Filipino hands.

Abaca is the fiber our Spanish and American colonizers sought for it was a highly-valued trade material. It was also called Manila hemp because it is indigenous to the Philippines and flourished in the country in the late 1800s. It still very much used for our textile that are exported all over the world. Like the fiber, the resort lives up to its home-grown name, be in abaca, everything feels undoubtedly Filipino.

Send your comments through dgudenciovasco@pldt.ph.



Manhattan Garden City named a sustainable project

Manhattan Garden City was identified as one of Megaworld Corporation's sustainable township projects during the 1st Sustainable Building Technology Conference held on November 11-12 at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Megaworld's Sustainability consultant, Edmund Mikeala, township developments like Manhattan Garden City are the perfect models for sustainable land use planning. Compact township promote "densification over sprawl" and transportation connectivity. Residents are encouraged to walk from home to the mall or office.

Manhattan Garden City, located at the Kamias Corner, offers an abundance of public transport options from buses, taxis to train lines. It is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 main lines converge, thus making any point of the metro from the north, south, east and west accessible within minutes.

Once this urban enclave entices/encourages residents to live, work, play and shop within the community, they are forecast to consume less electricity and water, buy a lesser quantity of items and discard less trash and spend far less time in automobiles. With the train lines as an option for transport, they will significantly contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions, according to Mikeala.

Manhattan Garden City is a joint venture project between the Kamias Group and Megaworld, the country's #1 developer of residential condominiums for the mid- and upper-income market.

"The green aspect of Manhattan Garden City also makes it a sustainable project. 60% of the total land area is dedicated to greeneries. Sky gardens at the upper four floors of every tower of our new phase, Manhattan Heights, will give residents a refreshing option to unwind high up the metro's confines," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu declared.

More than 20 different amenities – such as a lap pool and kiddie pool, skylights and jogging paths – like amber tropical landscaping at the fourth floor podium level of Manhattan Garden City. The podium level also hosts a 720-meter walkway through which residents can reach the other phases as well as the train stations via Gateway Mall for LRT2 and Farmers Plaza for the MRT line.

"Township living in a special place like Manhattan Garden City points the way to a sustainable future. You can live, work, shop and play here everyday of your life with the entire family," Yu concluded.

To inspect the benefits of living at Manhattan Garden City, please call 916-3333 or visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Residents will enjoy the live-work-play-shop lifestyle on offer at Manhattan Garden City.

Manhattan Garden City is one of the township projects of Megaworld Corporation that promote sustainability.

Manhattan Garden City is the only transit-oriented development that is linked to both LRT2 and MRT3 train lines.

Where Life is at its Greenest

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

at Manhattan Garden City

Araneta Center

For more details, call 810-3333 or 913-0234

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Ryan Cabral

2BU EXCLUSIVE!

Proud to be an Azkal

PHIL Younghusband

By Sasha Lim Uy

IN A PLACE where basketball and boxing rule, football is practically a foreign concept. But after the national team's ground-breaking in last December's AFF Suzuki Cup, we don't mind learning something new.

Thankfully, we found the perfect people to help us. 2bU interviewed Azkals captain Aly Borromeo and brothers Phil and James Younghusband.

Alexander Charles Luis Aly' Borromeo
Birthday: June 28, 1985 **Age:** 25
Position: Central defender, captain

How did you get started in football?

I actually started with gymnastics; I was about five or six years old. I enjoyed tackling and shoving other kids! Haha!

How did it feel to be part of the Philippine team?

I'm very honored to capture the team that made history. I've been part of the team for quite a while now, and this was one of our short term goals.

Family, football, and a fear of fish and chips—our favorite Azkals Aly Borromeo and the Younghusband brothers talk about it all

What's different about this team?

It was the morale of all the players and staff, coming to each game. Good and high morale equals positive results. We never gave up. Pinoy pride all the way!

What keeps you motivated during a game?

All our fans, who have been there with us since Day One. We have all been waiting for this moment to put Philippine football on the map.

Who do you admire most in your team?

I would say Wally, our physical therapist. He looks after all of us, and is so dedicated to his job.

What tips can you give to aspiring Pinoy football players?

Keep thinking positive, keep on practicing, and have the right mindset to succeed. If you go out there everyday and give it your all, there's no doubt you'll benefit in the end.

What's the potential of football in our country, which is more focused on basketball and boxing?

Pinoys have the capability to do well in football. If more nations and the government should realize the potential, and invest long-term in this, I think we created a real good buzz, and there. Now it's just a matter of keeping the momentum and going further, with greater results.

Getting personal

Describe your personality to one sentence.

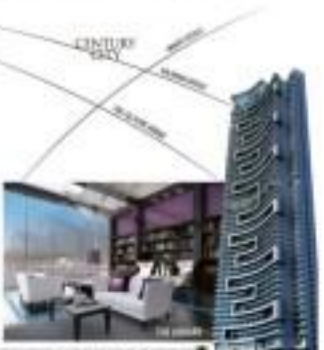
Very mellow and down-to-earth.

What keeps you busy apart from football?

My second love is actually basketball. When I'm not on the pitch training, I'm on the courts, training it up!

PHILO CI

CENTURY PROPERTIES TO OPEN
THE MILANO RESIDENCES
SHOWROOM IN FEBRUARY



In with the prints

Look for clothing with vintage-inspired prints to amp up the '50s vibe.

On Bjorn: Button-down shirt by Obey; boxers, stylist's own; socks, loafers and socks, all from Topman.

On Sam: T-shirt by Progress; skirt, stylist's own; socks from Landmark; pumps by Parisian

On Eric: Striped button-down shirt by The Artisan; khakis by Topman; socks by Puma; loafers by Dr. Martens

On Mac: Button-down shirt by Obey; camouflage shorts by Topman; socks by American Apparel; loafers by Dr. Martens

Return of the preppies

Inspired by the preppy division of the 1950s, button those shirts all the way to the top and pair with tasseled loafers.

On Mac: Cardigan by Penshoppe; short-sleeved button-down shirt by Unscripted; slacks by Knowledge; socks by Dickies; loafers by Dr. Martens

On Eric: Leather bomber and pinstriped button-down shirt by Obey; pants and socks, both from Topman; loafers by Dr. Martens

On Sam: Backless button-down shirt by The Artisan; silk pullpants, stylist's own; socks from Landmark; pumps from Parisian

On Bjorn: Baseball tee by Obey; jeans by Knowledge; socks by American Apparel; loafers by Topman.

That funky '50s vibe

Vintage never looked so hip, with these street styles inspired by the era of preppies and greasers

FASHION is one big cycle, and now we're back to the rocking '50s—lowrider hats, rolled pants, colorful socks with tasseled loafers and greasy hair!

Mix photographic clues from vintage-style clothes against the architectural backdrop of BONAC Ave Center, infusing a mix of old and new.

The BONAC Ave Center is fast becoming a destination for savvy hipsters, always in-the-know on what's cool and what's not. The Center has a slew of charming creative shops that outdoorsy to staples and sneaks.

Check out the local and imported streetwear labels featured here, all available at the Center.

SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!

All Obey and **Dr. Martens** products are available at Sunkist Obey at the Basement Level.

All The Artisan, Knowledge, and **Everlast** products are available at Terminal/Ex... Deck Level.

All **Unscripted** and **Parisian Shoes** products are available at Commune Deck Level.

All **Progress** products are available at Progress Deck Level.

BONAC Ave Center, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Manila, Philippines

Sock it to me

Funky socks are key to achieving this preppy look.

On Mac: Baseball tee by Obey; socks, and loafers, all from Topman.

On Bjorn: T-shirt by Obey; plaid button-down shirt and shirt, both by Knowledge; socks by Puma; loafers by Dr. Martens

Rock out with color

Color blockings in, and it's possible to wear more than just one at a time. Make sure to pick colors from close to one another, for a seamless look.

On Sam: Short-sleeved button-down shirt by Unscripted; shorts by Topshop; socks from Landmark; pumps, stylist's own

On Mac: Denim jacket by Obey; pink button-down shirt by Unscripted; khakis by Topman; socks by American Apparel; loafers by Pumas

On Eric: Button-down shirt by The Artisan; cardi worn by Unscripted; belt by Scrip; socks from Landmark; loafers by Dr. Martens

On Bjorn: Chambray button-down worn by Obey; jeans by Topman; socks by Puma; loafers by Dr. Martens

The greaser and the good girl

Inspired by the movie "Grease," roll up your T-shirt sleeves, slip on your leather jacket, and you'll be sure to get the girl.

On Sam: T-shirt by Ecodic; skirt by Bayo; socks by Landmark; flats by Parisian

On Eric: T-shirt by Progress; leather bomber by Obey; slacks by Topman; socks by American Apparel; loafers by Dr. Martens

Proud to be an Azkal

Photographs #??

What is your guilty pleasure?
Chocolates. I can't stay away from them, seriously!

What kind of girl catches your eye?
As long as she's sensitive and understands that football is a big part of my life. I'm not picky at all.

What are you most passionate about?
Football. But my family and loved ones come first.

Who is the most important person in your life right now?
Probably my dad. He's the one who inspired me and taught me how to excel in sports. Without his guidance, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Have you seen David with Hamming Juna, especially Ilo Iloilo?
I'm very accommodating. They're the ones who give me motivation to win our games.

What's next for you?
I've had offers to play abroad, but my heart is here in the Philippines. Right now, I want to concentrate on making football grow in the countryside in the Philippines on the football map of the world.

Philip James Placer 'Phil' Younghusband
Birthday: Aug. 4, 1983
Age: 27
Position: Striker

James Joseph Placer Younghusband
Birthday: Sept. 4, 1986
Age: 24
Position: Midfielder-right winger

How did it feel to be part of the Philippine team?
P: It's a great feeling to be part of a team that is doing so much to raise the awareness of football in the Philippines, making history every time we step on the field. And with every success of the team, football is growing and expanding in a country known for basketball and boxing. It also means a lot, knowing the success in this tournament coincided with my return to the national team after a couple years out, after the team didn't qualify last time around.

J: It's a great honor to be part of a team that has been so successful as this. I just hope we can keep the momentum going and continue with more success. The team has worked very hard this past year, and has reaped the rewards of hard work. And a never-say-die attitude, and this will help us in the future.

What's the best thing about football?
P: There is no discrimination. It's a second gender sport, you can be of any body type and any race, and it's a sport for the masses. It can be played anywhere, and all you need is a ball.

J: Football has everything. It is a dramatic sport, action movie, entertainment, comedy show, every measure sum up all rolled into one. You can be the villain one day and a hero the next.

What's the most bizarre thing that ever happened to you on the field?
P: Not a lot of bizarre things happen to me on the pitch, but a few happen off the pitch, mostly marriage proposals or things thrown, like underwear. It's flattering, and I never really know what to say or do.

J: This one time, we were training and this average man ran to the pitch during practice and started snatching me and the other players hair to do bicycle kicks. But his technique was far from correct.

The real James and Phil

Describe your personality to one sentence.
P: Outgoing, driven, idealistic, and family-loyal.
J: Reserved, a workhorse, idiotic, and romantic.

What are you like off the pitch?
P: Family-oriented, fun, and relaxing and well-mannered.
J: Quiet, patient, and detailed.

What keeps you busy apart from football?
P: We like to spend time with our mom and little sister. We spend a lot of time with friends eating out and having coffee. We like to watch movies and make plans for The Younghusband Football Academy (TYFA).

Tell us something about yourself that no one else knows.
P: I really don't like fish, and if anyone puts a fish on the table, I find it hard to eat anything.
J: I have a phobia of potato chips. I won't even touch the packet the chips are in. When Phil and I have a disagreement, he threatens me with potato chips.

What's the funniest thing about you?
P: I sometimes refer to myself in the third person, and I fill in lyrics of songs with my name.
J: I do a great impression of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Your guilty pleasure?
P: Lots of massages!
J: Too much sleep.

What kind of girl catches your eye?
P: I look for a easy smile, and someone who is kind. I also like girls with a good sense of humor.
J: Someone who is goofy with a good personality.

What are you most passionate about?
P: My family. They mean everything to me, and I would do anything to protect my mom, brother, and sister. Since our dad passed away when I was 16, I had to grow up quickly and be the man of the house.
J: I am very passionate about my family and football. They are the two loves of my life, and it's great to marry the two together, and have my family watch my games.

What's next for you?
P: Well, there is a busy schedule with the national team in 2011 with the Suzuki Cup in February and March and then World Cup Qualifiers in June. We plan to play for the Azkals during these competitions, and then we also have TYFA, where we hope to partner with a local government and help promote and create a structure for football in public schools. We want to change lives through football, and we believe certain values such as teamwork, self-expression, confidence, and many others can be easily learned through football.
J: Everything is down in partnership with my brother, as we hope to capitalize on the success of the national team and maximize the interest in football. As Phil said, we have a lot of national team games next year, and it's important we continue to be successful.

TEAM captain Ali Borromeo

JAMES Younghusband

The Center for Asian Culinary Studies
431 P. Guevarra Street San Juan City Metro Manila
www.cacsfood.com cacs@cacsfood.com
726-0026 or 725-5089

Chef Gene & the CACS faculty proudly launch the Best Professional Program Curriculum in 2011

We are proud to announce the launching of the best and most value-for-money Professional Program Curriculum in the Philippines. The CACS Professional Program has now been improved to produce truly world-class chefs with the best certification this country can offer.

After finishing all the requirements, each student will merit 2 certifications from TESDA:
- NC-IV in Commercial Cooking
- NC-II in Bread and Pastry Production
(aside from the diploma from the Center for Asian Culinary Studies)

Our new Professional Program integrates in its program, the TESDA NC-II Commercial Cooking and Bread & Pastry Production Assessments which is one of the main requirements of all prospective chefs who want to go abroad. NO MORE HASSLES, WAITING, BUYING INCREDIENTS PRIOR TO ASSESSMENT. We will take care of everything!

Our new Professional Program boasts the most relevant techniques from Europe, Asia and America in order to produce globally competitive chefs. While still putting emphasis on our new Filipino Cookery due as a major part of the program.

Our new and improved kitchen facilities are all new and up-to-date, giving all our students the advantage of using equipment and techniques that are up to par with the highest quality commercial kitchens here and abroad. Rest of all, we will assure that all the professionals teaching the program have had years of expertise in their fields and are ready to share their greatest knowledge with you.

THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IS NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLEES FOR ITS OPENING ON JANUARY 20 & 27, 2011 for the MWF and TTHS AM & PM Classes.

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Contact/ Sophie Dinge Kden Joshua Cuela

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Shangri-La's Mactan elevates industry standards with its new integrated management system

SHANGRI-LA'S MACTAN Resort and Spa, Cebu continues to be in the forefront of the industry as it announces the full implementation and certification of its integrated management system covering environmental management, food safety management and occupational health and safety management. The integration of these three systems allows a more holistic management approach that mandates to increased cohesiveness and efficiency in operations.

With its new integrated management system in place, hoteliers/visitors and business travelers can be confident that by choosing to stay in Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu, they are guaranteed the highest standards of physical safety for themselves and the staff who service them. Guests can also be confident that the quality of the resort's food and beverage outlets, which showcase authentic regional cuisine, meets one of the most rigorous international standards and that the operations of the resort do not harm the environment.

"As an industry leader, it is the responsibility of Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa to provide a better product every time. We realize that today's travelers are making more responsible choices – diners today favor and consume more informed and ethical cuisines especially with regard to their own health and fitness, and to social and environmental issues. At Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, our guests can be at peace knowing that with our integrated management system, leisure and luxury is always more than guaranteed," said Joachim Schultz, the resort's general manager.

For more information on Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu's integrated management system and to make reservations, please call (6332) 231-0288 or e-mail mactan@shangri-la.com.

Hilton Cebu celebrates the Year of the Rabbit

HILTON CEBU Resort on Mactan is celebrating the Year of the Rabbit with a whole host of festive-taking place at the hotel on Feb. 3. Guests and passers-by can share the year's first family meal at Hilton Cebu's sensational dinner buffet in the resort's beach garden, which will be enhanced with Chinese spirit and festivity from the decorations right down to the exciting entertainment on offer. Dragon and lion dancers will even be on hand to usher in the beginning of the Chinese New Year. Relax in one of the sea view rooms and suites at the resort, starting from P7,500++ for room and breakfast, and if you're extending your stay for the weekend, enjoy a 20% discount on your second and stay when you book before June 14. Guests can also indulge in the sun at the hotel's outdoor and outdoor recreation facilities, then celebrate the New Year in the hotel's stunning beach garden and dine on a selection of Chinese favorites lovingly prepared by the hotel's expert chefs. Guests and patrons will then enjoy a spectacular fireworks display that will light up the sky and welcome in a prosperous 2011. The Chinese Dinner Buffet at the Beach Garden is priced at P1,688++. For reservations call 402 -7777 or e-mail, reservations.cebu@hilton.com

Makati Palace Hotel's year-round 'Romance Package'

WITH SHE stones of pink, reds, lofts and truffle, these days, it's hard to keep the romance alive. The Makati Palace Hotel hopes to help couples keep the home fires burning by offering a year round "Romance Package" starting at just P5,000 per night. Lovers this can be Valentine's Day as the package is available from Feb. 1 to Dec. 31. Additional overnights are available at the same amount. The rate is based on double occupancy and paid is hotel availability. Inclusion of tax and service charge. This offer cannot be combined with other promotions or offers or for group rates. For reservations and information, www.makatipalacehotel.com ph or call 888-8344. The 231-room Makati Palace Hotel caters to guests with style luxury in spectacular cosmopolitan Makati.

A heart feast at Greenhills Elan Hotel Modern

WITH VALENTINE'S Day fast approaching, the Greenhill's Elan Hotel Modern is making it easy for last minute planning. The Romance Package offers guests everything they need to create a magical evening together. Surprise her with an unexpected night of romance and seduction, and wake up in limbered and invigorated, and surrounded by luxurious accommodations. The Romance Package includes an overnight accommodation (valid for all room categories), welcome drinks for two upon arrival, two-hot buffet breakfast, complimentary parking slot. Rates starts at P3,400++ per room per night. Couples can choose from one of the activities. 30-minutes consultant-mentary body spa for the couple add-on at its Eyon, romantic candlelight set dinner for two at garden poolside, room upgrade to the best room category in the property's inventory, subject to availability, guest may offer something more precise booking to the newly upgraded "spa-ciah" bath amenity which highlights already lavish and spacious bathrooms. Breathtaking views of the city are available from many guest rooms and suites, added on extra touch of sophisticated charm. The perfect opportunity to "stay in" and enjoy each other's company, without the inconvenience of dropping home, indulge her desires for dinner in the distinctive on-site restaurants. The Elan Cafe is known for serving international cuisine in a comfortable, casual setting while the Garden Room and Grill features traditional Filipino cuisine. Turn a quiet dinner for two into a memorable occasion at this luxury hotel in Greenhills San Juan.

Chefs on Parade bestows first Larry J. Cruz Award to Nora Daza

CHEFS ON Parade (COP) 2011 to be held Feb. 10, 11 and 13 at the SMX Convention Center is not just a competition of professional and amateur chefs. With workshops, cooking demonstrations, trade exhibits, a food and hospitality conference, book launch and a food fest featuring Asian and Filipino international cuisine, it is definitely the biggest culinary event in the Philippines. COP is being organized by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) to showcase the best and highest culinary talents and promote Filipino cuisine to the world. Foodies and chefs from around Asia, Europe and the US will be flying to judge and participate at COP.

COP also pays tribute to an individual who has achieved excellence in the culinary arena and lived a meaningful life which can't be left by the late Larry J. Cruz, Filipino restaurateur and passionate gourmet. Cruz, or LJC as he was fondly called, transformed local casual dining by establishing the L.JC. Group which includes themed resorts such as Todo Kahalan, Balay Negrense, Café Havana, Bon Larry's Cafe and Bar, and others. Cruz also served as president of HRAP for several terms. He was instrumental in making Chefs on Parade the most prestigious and longest running culinary contest in the country.

HRAP has chosen authors, leaders, food, and entrepreneur Nora Daza to be the recipient of the first ever Larry J. Cruz Culinary Achievement Award. The awarding, to be held on Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the diagnosis, is one of the closing events. Daza is also featured in the coffee table book to be launched at COP. The book essay written by Joseph Cortes describes Daza as one of the focal pioneers in the field of cooking. It declares, "Long before there were celebrity chefs in the Philippines, there was Nora Daza. What Julia Child did for French food, I ascribe for Filipino food."

Win P100,000 and a vacation getaway from Thunderbird Resorts

DUBBED AS "Extraordinary", Thunderbird Resorts launches its first online video contest. Participants will get the chance to win P100,000, a vacation getaway for four at Thunderbird Resorts Poblacion Los Baños, Subic Philippines Cavit and other local prizes. The resorts threat is to create extraordinary experiences for its guests, giving them a luxurious vacation lifestyle with world-class, it hosts two world-class properties from in the Philippines catering to leisure, sports, recreational activities. Each is located in the highland oasis of Binangonan, Rizal, the other Manila Harbour-inspired property is in the peninsula of Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union. Just answer "What Makes you Extraordinary" in a video clip. Full mechanics is posted on www.thunderbirdresorts.ph/videocontest. Shoot the video at Thunderbird Resorts - either in Rizal or Poro Point - to have your guests on an Apple iPad. "Extraordinary" is Thunderbird Resorts way of saying thank you to all its online fans and followers. Special mention to Expo Philippines, Travelbook.ph, and Nothing2Philippines for supporting the contest. For more information on the "Extraordinary" Dollar Video Contest, go to www.thunderbirdresorts.ph/videocontest or visit the official website www.thunderbird-sea.com.

Japanese government offers teacher training and Japanese studies scholarships

THE JAPAN Information and Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, is now accepting applications for the following categories of the Japanese Government Scholarships for the year 2012:

For Teacher Training (under 35 years old), with fields of study in education management, methods of education, special subjects, and observation study. Teachers should be teaching at elementary or secondary school level; technical teachers, or an academic staff in a teacher training school (college professors are not eligible), have at least five years teaching experience, and have good academic standing.

For Japanese Studies (18-29 years old), with fields of study: Japanese language, life and culture, etc. Students should be majoring in fields related to the Japanese language or culture in universities, have enough knowledge of the Japanese language, and have good academic standing.

These scholarships are open to all Filipinos citizens satisfying the above requirements and age. Application forms may be downloaded from the Embassy website, www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp, "Culture and Education" section. The deadline for submission of applications is Feb. 25, 2011 (Friday).

The selection process is composed of several stages, such as document screening, written examinations, and interview screening.

Free scholarship consultations are also held at the library of the Embassy of Japan, every Friday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 2–4:30 p.m. Interested individuals are requested to bring a valid ID to enter the embassy premises.

For more information, visit or call the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC)/Embassy of Japan, 2627 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City 1300, tel. nos. 551-5710 local 4303 and 4317.

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50TH OSEAL FORUM OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS AT SOFITEL

Best Western Premier F1 Hotel sets the trend at the Fort

Feel the love at One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites

Try on some quadricentennial pride at UST

As the Catholic university marks another milestone, there's no exact parameter to measure school spirit—but there are lots of ways to wear it

By Ruth L. Navarro

[illegible] BIG FAN of school pride. I chose the luminar during UAAP games, so much that evangelized [illegible] to me and add me up on Facebook. I'm a sucker for any merchandise that has University of Santo Tomas (UST) logos or names on it. I buy T-shirts, jackets, pens, bags, and notebooks in black, yellow and white. I don't collect them to garb or dust in a shrine. I use them until they're worn out.

Because of my enthusiasm to become a walking ad for UST, people started to assume that my favorite color is yellow. They even expect the motif of my wedding to be tiger print. It's not, and it won't be.

My alma mater is celebrating its Quadricentennial this year. It is the granddaddy of all celebrations for all Thomasians. The Tongues of Fire that spell out UST are printed on all possible surfaces: bases, notebooks, bannerets, placemats and clothes.

However, no item is as desirable as the limited watch commemorative editions. I think anything you tag as "limited" becomes desirable. Jonathan Camalinda of the UST Office of Public Affairs endorsed all four designs. Each watch houses a memory.

Designer watch

The first design was launched on Oct. 15. Its plastic strap came in gold and black with a vector design of the Main Building on one end. Only 1,000 of them were made and it's been sold out since Christmas.

I bought the second design from a friend's kiosk recently. Only 500 of them were made, just like the third and fourth designs. I took out my bet from its big, black box and inspected it closely. The black leather strap feels soft on the skin. The UST Seal is printed on one side, and the Tongues of Fire and the embossed letters of "UST" on the other. Unique wise, it is the most elegant.

The watch itself is water-resistant and made of stainless steel. This jewel was used to keep it from wearing inside. It has a exterior that measures each second, and it has date display. The crown is, as long as it has two hands that move very minutes and hours, it's good enough for me.

The final two designs will be launched in time for the opening of the Quadricentennial celebrations on Jan. 28. It will be sold in pairs. They both have the same design, displaying five icons of the university seal. The papal tiara stands for the Pontifical, the lion stands for the Royal patronage of Spain, the sea bar for the City of Manila, and the rose for its Marian roots. The rose that looks like a cartoon because of its face is actually St. Thomas Aquinas' cap.

You don't have to own any of these watches to show your love and loyalty for UST, but I bet it will feel great to flash your watch when people ask what school you're from.

THE WATCHES are just a few of the commemorative pieces the university will launch for the Quadricentennial celebration.

super LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Subeditor/Editor Pam Pastor

'Burlesque' with a bang

Super gets down and dirty in a Q & A with pop siren Christina Aguilera

By J.L. Cuenca
Cebu Bureau

HER HUSKY self through countless music videos, pop siren Christina Aguilera will make museum-fur the first time in Columbia Pictures' "Burlesque."

"It's sexy, it's sensual," she promises. "The whole idea of burlesque has always intrigued me. The art of the tease, the dance, beautiful women—need I say more?"

Aguilera plays Ali, a plucky girl from Iowa who runs off to the big city to follow her dreams and lands a job at a nightclub. Set it matches character's heart and gets that caught her eye, says Aguilera, who has been candid about her own childhood travails: "It wasn't just about a girl who comes to LA and makes it big, it was a girl who had suffered and felt pain, been to seven foster homes. She doesn't let her past make her a victim. And that to me was so appealing," she says.

Why did you pick Burlesque for your film debut?

I've been offered other roles and read many scripts, but I was drawn to "Burlesque" because I liked this character and felt I could sink my teeth into her. I was sucked into the magical and beautiful world of burlesque, and I was also very intrigued from my first meeting with writer and director Steve Antin, because I felt he understood the beauty of women and knew how to light them and bring out the best in them. I just couldn't say no.

How did you get into shape for the movie?

I had dance rehearsals that started a few months before shooting the movie. And I feel like I've never danced before in my life before this film, even though I've been performing since I was 6.

Was it tough?

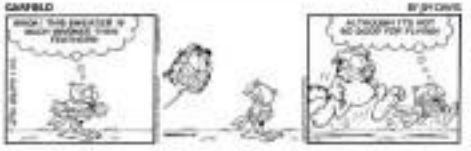
Yes, because I had to balance the singing and dancing with the acting. And for that I had to step outside of myself and tap into what Ali, my character, is all about.

How was that experience?

I am used to writing my own music and lyrics and expressing whom I am and digging deep into myself, but doing a film is about becoming a different person. And it

TURN TO PAGE D2

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPPH BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARGOS

DICK TRACY

LOVE KNOTS BY ELIZABETH HOCHKALO

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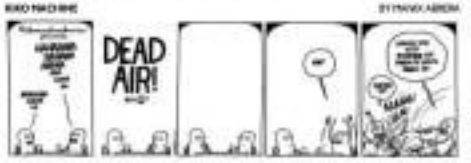
KIKO MACHINE BY FRANCIS ABRERA



SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK BY MARA COLI

Lagong makaing ng shoma sa 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM Lowa hanggang Byernes

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Saving the best on needs, to creating good style and opportunities will come to you. Ride the wave of love. It's your destiny to celebrate yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) As the sun progresses, you will have an increasing interest in spiritual affairs. You might join religious groups or clubs that have embarrassing activity goals.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You definitely can expect your popularity rating to increase during the next few months. Love now seems to make your head feel extraordinarily light.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Opportunities to promote your reputation and good name will come to you during the next six months. Many of you will change career directions or get a raise or promotion.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Good fortune is in store for you in the months ahead. Everything to do with publishing, film-making, education or communication puts a lovely break now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This year you are looking at one of many opportunities to transform your wealth or status. Adventurous activity fascinates this phenomenon, unconventional or even partner's favorite artist becomes anybody's. Yay!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Partnerships and close friendships are going to change quickly and moving ways. Be careful not to lose your individuality in a personal project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This year, most of you are in a prime cycle for a better job or change your attitude so that you find your job more fun. This is your best chance to do the kind of work you've always dreamed about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Unconditional romance, vacations and playful times with children will bring you happiness. Your luck is on your side. Go home to your family!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This year you are embarking on a lovely adventure of love during the next eight months that benefits your mind and career. It also benefits all family activities. Many families will increase income as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You've never had so much to do and so little time to do it in. You may dread what's in the back pocket for tomorrow. Have fears been a lot more than a decade. Keep your problem cool.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Finally, the romance you've been waiting for is here. You have had to work hard for it, but it's worth it. The year ahead will be the best ever for you in terms of love. Make sure you have time to relax and enjoy your achievements.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs and information, visit www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	6	2	7	5	9	1	8
7	2	9	1	3	8	4	5	6
1	5	8	6	4	9	2	3	7
8	6	1	5	9	3	7	4	2
4	9	5	8	2	7	1	6	3
2	3	7	4	6	1	5	8	9
6	8	3	7	5	4	2	9	1
5	1	4	9	8	2	6	7	5
9	7	2	3	1	6	8	2	4

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Lowe

8			2					4
				7				
	2		1		9		8	
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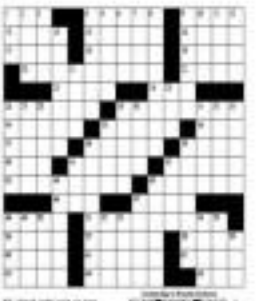
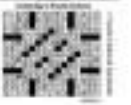
9					2			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





AGUILERA gets rousing, dance, act and series songs, too.

'Burlesque' with a bang

From page D1

wise hard for me at first to do that, but I adapted and realized that it was all about opening myself and getting in touch, even with your pains of mine, to get motivated and inspired for the emotional moments my characters goes through.

What would you say you have in common with Ali?

I relate to Ali having many different things come her way, and also being an old soul at heart who has good instincts. And she has my voice!

How would you describe her relationship with Tess, played by Cher?

Ali constantly wants to prove herself to Tess, and they have this sort of ongoing humor throughout the whole movie. She wants Cher's character to see her for the performer that she really is, but Tess chases her away until they finally come together—which is an incredibly emotional moment.

How was your relationship with Cher?

Cher was great, and she embraced me from day one with open arms. Reading her 6 months of encouragements and support was like scrapping little pieces of candy that has been taken away from me, and when we get together in a room, it feels like we are old girlfriends because we just talk and talk for hours. I adore Cher and she's my enough good things about her. I just find her the most fascinating person I may have ever met!

And you also got to work with Stanley Tucci.

Stanley is amazing, and brings such a calm and professional energy to the set that makes you want to step up your game. It's hard to go face-to-face with people like Stanley Tucci and Cher, who have been there and done it before, but they were always very supportive.

How would you describe the look of "Burlesque?"

Bojan Bazelli has shot and lit this movie beautifully. I love characters and visuals, and it's been great to see "Burlesque" come to life in such an amazing way.

What can you say of the dance sequences?

There is a lot of grace in burlesque, and we have taken that and modernized it in a way I haven't seen or experienced before. I have learned so much.

And you even composed several songs!

I did! I wrote several songs for the movie, including "Bound to You" for the finale and "Express," which is played when I start mesmerizing the club. It has all been a joy.

AGUILERA hits it off with co-star Cher.

CHRISTINA Aguilera's first one-hour concert is easy and emotional.

AGUILERA plays Ali, a character with heart and grit.

piling and balancing act for me, but at the same time one that I embraced and am proud of.

You also sing some 60s tunes.

Tess is my favorite singer, and getting to perform songs like "Loving You Not 30 Minutes" and "I'm a Good Girl" and reinvent them in my own way was great.

Is "Burlesque" going to mark the beginning of a film career for you then?

I hope so! I would love to do another movie, but maybe not a musical, as I don't normally like to go down the same path twice.

Opening across the Philippines on Feb. 2, "Burlesque" is distributed by Columbia Pictures, local office of Sony Pictures Releasing International. Visit http://www.columbiapictures.com.ph for trailers, exclusive contests and free downloads. Like us at www.facebook.com/ColumbiaPictures99 and join our fan contests.

Meet Marie

From page D1

Hopefully within the next year or so!

What do you want to do here when you come?

Learn cooking, see a lot of gorgeous scenery ride in a jeepney, EAT!

You have relatives here right?

Yes, family I haven't met yet.

You have a thing for bad puns right?

I do want a pun!

And when you say Ankle and your name for Filipino word "bobby" right?

Haha yes. You sure have well that translates, but my baby friends are fabulous.

Describe yourself in five words:

The world's most perfect human.

Five things you're obsessed with:

Right now it's candy cane necklaces, Phoebe Cates, trying to find the perfect eyeliner (but...try I know human analogue, Chanel Rouge Allure Velvet lipstick.

Five crazy things you've done:

Skated Agent Lance Ishaq paced down the Great Wall of China, exercised with Richard Simmons, had a dance battle with a stranger in Tokyo, starred in a commercial in multiple scenarios.

Five crazy things you want to do:

Travel everywhere, ride a bicycle in clear stripper heels, become a Zumba instructor, learn how to tattoo, learn Salsa.

Five people you want to meet:

Amy Sedaris and Paul Scheer, I've met John Waters, Olivia and Chaos but I want to meet them again and have tea and sleep the monkey with them.

SWEET TREAT Marie wears one of her cake hats.

Five movies you can watch over and over:

"Clueless," "Sum if colours," "Valley Girl," "Twin Witch," "Elvira Mistress of The Dark," SO MANY TO CHOOSE!

Five songs you have on repeat:

Prince's "I Would Die 4 U," Imelda' "South Carolina," Phoebe Cates' "Now Do I Let You Know?", Outkast's "Spread," Aaliyah's "More Than A Woman." That was a really hard question!

Five things on your wish list:

Jeffrey Campbell Dixie T-Strap and Red Bow Wedges, A trip to Tokyo, a new camera, Polly body in every color! A Mia Mia bag!

What are you passionate about?

Living life as my biography will be an unauthorized 'best seller' banned in many countries.

Why should people check out Agent Lance?

For the investing of life! Not lots of bad good absurdity.

Find Marie at www.agentlance.com.

Christmas gets extended with big discounts from Jollibee

It's an extended holiday season this 2011 as food lovers wishing for their favorite Jollibee delights don't have to spend a lot to enjoy the merriest and most delicious treats. Jollibee's Affordelicious offerings let Pinoys start the year on a bright note with big savings on their langhap-sarap favorites.

Friends and families can savor great-tasting goodness over and over with more affordable menu choices from Jollibee that offer half savings of up to P7. For only P56, enjoy snack time with the Jollibee Spaghetti Value Meal that comes with a regular softdrink. Or you can dig into the Regular Jolly Hotdog Value Meal paired with regular fries and a softdrink also for only P56. Top off those affordable treats with a delightful Jolly Krunchy Twist for only P10.

Whether having a New Year get-together with friends or savoring a delicious meal with the family, everyone can have their fill of more Jollibee favorites and enjoy great value as the year begins. Head to the nearest Jollibee store and take advantage of amazing savings from January 1 to 31. With the Jollibee Affordelicious choices, it will surely feel like Christmas all over again!

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

Meet Marie

By Pam Pevoor

THE INTERNET is a magical place. Sometimes, when you're Googling something, you end up on a site so interesting that it completely sucks you in so all you forget what you were Googling in the first place.

That's exactly how we found Agent Lover.

Agent Lover, or Marie Madeline Lechtenfeld, is a 30-year-old Italian Filipina based in California. She's been making the Internet a more colorful place since she put up Agent Lover in 2006, after a friend convinced her to make the move from Livejournal.

Her blog—which feels more like a party than a website—covers everything from old-toy pages from her childhood and fan clubs with friends to movies she loved and purchases that smell like dessert. Her blog is a visual feast and Marie has the ability to make everything—even a trip to Target—sound like a big adventure.

Reading Marie's blog feels like talking to your best friend—if your best friend has perfect bangs and is into dresses, crazy nails, cute Japanese stuff, tutu capes, Lisa Frank, all kinds of vintage greatness and tacos.

When Marie isn't blogging, she's busy writing, making cake buns (which you can order) and selling vintage clothes under her label Gold Hearted Snakes.

In this e-mail interview, Marie talks about her blog, her obsessions, her "battle scar" and her desire to learn cooking.

What made you decide to create your blog?

I used to be an Livejournal and my BF friends suggested I start turning on my own site. And it went from there! Without hyperbole would be accurate to say it is friends.

Where was Agent Lover born?

I started writing it in 2006, but it was just an extension of my Livejournal outthrust a lot, so it was revamped and rebuilt as more of a fashion blog in January of 2008.

Tell us about your blog.

I write about fashion, film, music, interviews with people I admire, my adventures... it's a bit wacky and weird, though. Not your typical fashion blog. It's for a very special type of person who has an excellent sense of humor. Hahaha

Who were your first readers?

Friends who I bribed/coerced it.

When did you realize your blog was popular?

Is it popular? It's so weird to look at numbers. I have trouble picturing thousands of people looking at my writing. You kind of only think that the people who comment are the only ones who read it, unless someone actually tells you. Blogging is so weird.

Any funny/memorable/crazy blog-related stories?

The weirdest and most awkward "interview" was with the muppets from "Fraggle Rock," so glad it wasn't on camera.

Have you had any crazy stalkers?

Yikes that's scary. I hope not. Most likely I am stalking you though.

What's the craziest thing an Agent Lover fan has done to get your attention?

I've heard of one man in Wichita getting an Agent Lover tattoo on his bicep; but have yet to see proof. I'm sure there will be tons of fakers named after me over the as well.

Countless websites have featured you...how do you feel about that?

It's actually not countless! I mean I am no Boyzadoy! But I'm very happy that people dig what I do.

"I'M VERY happy that people dig what I do," says Marie.

Why do you think people love Agent Lover so much?

I don't know! I'm really nostalgic and like a lot of old-school stuff so a lot of people relate to it. Also I'm a Libra aka VERY CLASSIC. (No!... just kidding.

You do a lot of interviews on your blog—can you tell us about some of your favorites?

Michael Ian Black, SNL, Jackie Collins, Jenn Colella, Rivelaine (not Stevie) Hall

Who is your dream interview subject?

John Waters, Amy Sedaris, Chaos, Christ

Tell us about your blog's different sections/categories.

Mad Crushin' is interviews with an array of artists and people I admire. Dear Mona is a crazy dating advice column that different ones answer. Glitterbits is all about the movies I like; Dress Obsessed shows off my outfits which are 90 percent dresses.

Tell us about your paper doll. Did you make that yourself? What made you decide to put it up?

My friend Jess Phillips who is one of my favorite artists ever did the paper doll. I have a new one that will be up soon with new outfits and hairstyles!

Tell us about your sales lists. Do you make them yourself? Can people still order? Will you ship to the Philippines?

I now do and yes! Just e-mail me at marie@agentlover.com to see what e-mail is available and we get shipping pricing.

Tell us about Gold Hearted Snakes. Are you excited about it?

Yes, I've been thinking about selling things for years. It's a fun side project!

How would you describe your style?

Anna Gotlin kinderwhore meets "Mean Blonde going to a funeral." Sometimes it's '80s preppy, it's '90s grunge, and a lot of Vanity is. Depends on my mood!

Tell us about your passion for dresses.

I love the oldish days when people would put in effort to look nice. I like being girly. Dresses are just 10 times more fun than jeans and a T-shirt.

You're not a Filipino but you grew up in the States...how much do you know about Philippine culture? Did you experience any of it growing up?

Not as much as I would like! I really wish I could speak Tagalog and do modeling.

Which are you planning to visit the Philippines?

NEXT D2

CafeFrance: The newest place to meet!

Post-holiday reunion with friends? Or do you just want some quiet time with your loved one after all that Christmas rush? Or perhaps, it is the time to plan the business year with your associates? Then come right in to the perfect meeting place – CafeFrance.

CAB|CF

CafeFrance is a new destination to visit this 2011, which offers an array of delectable gourmet sandwiches, pasta and more! Must-tries are the freshly baked croissants, baguettes and coffee buns. The ingredients are only the finest and freshest, including authentic French flour from Grand Moulins de Paris. CafeFrance offers an atmosphere that is very conducive for meetings. It has nice, well-lit, cozy interiors and the mood is set for private conversations – whether it be friendly chitchat or serious step talk, matched with gourmet meals that will whet your appetite.

Good food is on the agenda

Afternoon meetings are best done with the Breakfast Tray Deluxe with slices of classic ham, crispy bacon and frankfurter, plus two fluffy scrambled eggs. There are also omelets available, served with bread and coffee, juice, or iced tea and breakfast platters to choose from.

If you're meeting over lunch or dinner, among CafeFrance's specialties are gourmet sandwiches like French Dip Roast Beef, Cordon Bleu Chicken Cutlet, Cobb Salad, Celery and Creamy Chicken. Craving for pasta? Try the Seafood Marinara. For big appetites, there's the Tray Gourmet – sandwich and pasta combinations served with appetizer, soup, dessert and drink.

Afternoon meetings become more alive with the coffee but-paired with a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Choices on freshly-made pastries and savouries are also available, along with iced beverages and frappes.

For meetings in the office, CafeFrance will deliver

As an added service, CafeFrance also delivers these great tasting food to your office. There are the special and premium concepts, as well as party trays to make business discussions more pleasurable. All you have to do is to pick up that phone and call the nearest CafeFrance branch.

Let's meet at CafeFrance

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DEWYZE: His album doesn't quite "live it up."

BOWERSOX: Her vocal talents are deeply felt.

Diminishing returns for DeWyze, Bowersox

By Rina P. Avila

IS "AMERICAN IDOL" began its 10th season this week, the programmatic decline of its popularity and credibility has become even more apparent in the lukewarm reception for the newly released albums of Season Nine winners, Lee DeWyze, and his runner-up, Crystal Bowersox.

While the 22-year-old songsmith sold 58,000 copies of "Farmer's Daughter" on its first week, DeWyze could only push 30,000 units of "Live It Up," earning the gravelly-voiced singer a No. 19 here on the Billboard 200—the lowest debut ever for an American Idol! (In contrast, the also "underwhelming" opening week of Kris Allen's first recording landed Season Eight's lovelorn champ as No. 11, with 80,000 copies sold.)

Radio-friendly tunes

Unfortunately, we're not just talking about a considerable dip in sales for "Idol" alumni, but also in quality. For the most part, DeWyze's album doesn't really "live it up." It may have radio-friendly tunes ("Sweet Serendipity"), but more than half of its 13-track lineup is compromised by dull melodies or banning rendition[s] [illegible] tone—which can be attributed to the fact that, other than the rock-tinged "Beautiful Like You," DeWyze contrives all of his songs.

Most notable sans The percussive energy of "Close to Me" is strangely missable. "It's Gonna Be Love" is bereft of the towering interplay of drums and strings. Delectable beginning and a totally-in-sequence completion (DeWyze's innovative playfulness in "Stay Here," that, the smoky bluesy "Breakfast Bridge" brings our fave's latent "soul."

More satisfying

It isn't surprising that Crystal Bowersox's collection is more satisfying than her competitor's. What's astonishing is that "Farmer's Daughter" isn't the R&B compilation we thought it would be. In fact, the 12-track album is more country than urban pop or rock. (Be composed all of her songs, except Kris Oliveguard's mediocre "Wish On" and Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth."

Curiously, her album has something in common with DeWyze's: Unremarkable melodies. It's a good thing that the tunes are given fun-to-ignore arrangements, made more appealing by conditions that go beyond performance. Bowersox's songs are insightful, deeply felt confessions that sometimes go for the jugular.

Take the title track, "Farmer's Daughter," a strongly workmen love/sex confessional that finds Jack at a low than ideal life with her abusive mother: I'm halfway to crazy, not far from some/ I know the realities and believe/ that, I know

DOWNLOAD (2)

Eastwood triumphs anew in his meditative exploration of death

By Mankit Tiaro

FOR CAN'T-over-actor-Clint Eastwood of being predictable in his choice of subject matter, and that he certainly is not in "Hereafter," A meditative exploration of death and what comes after it, Eastwood's latest film deals with a subject not often dealt with outside the horror genre in Hollywood—and when it is, it's often remembered by a morbid amusement that trivializes the subject's importance.

"Hereafter" isn't a true psychic, a soap opera or a supernatural suspense film. Eastwood doesn't do sappy after all. This movie is quiet, with a measured, deliberate pace and plenty of still moments, where all the struggle is internal.

Starring Matt Damon as "tortured soul psychic, George Lonegan, who's working in a blue collar job as he tries to forget that he can talk to dead people, the film also follows French television journalist, Marie Lelay (Cécile de France), after she survives a tsunami and grapples with her near-death experiences,

DAMON: Wastes a psychic in "Hereafter."

and an English schoolboy, Marcus, who's race adrift by the death of his twin brother Jakayed by Frankie and George McLaren).

Departure

The film's multiple narrative structure is something of a departure for Eastwood, and the way the plotlines and characters are tied together in the last minutes of the movie is somewhat implausible. But, having different threads to follow underscores the movie's meandering, exploratory feel.

And, it does have room for an eclectic, deeply-drawn cast of characters who ground the film in the gritty realities of everyday

EASTWOOD (2)

FANS' DAY

Malicious gossip as an excuse for entertainment is a turn-off

By Andy Bisk

WHY DO TV networks cosplay the parent, reflect in their programs those days? "I can't cite any game show that doesn't do this," Jorg Elgarico, a concerned parent, observes. "Audience members chosen to participate in games and even the so-called 'reality-house viewers' seem obliged to share their misfortunes before prizes are awarded to them.

"For more dramatic effect, their stories are accompanied by depressing background music. So they really need advocates to make their programs 'entertaining'? Obviously some haven't."

I remember a time when television

HALIGDOG (1)

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Ankaa Ka

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SHOWS TOMORROW

Jun 27, 2011, 8:00PM

Feb 14, 11:30, 02:15, 05:00, 07:30, 10:00PM

Feb 15, 2011, 8:00 PM

Feb 16, 2011, 8:00PM

Feb 17, 2011, 8:00PM

Feb 18, 2011, 8:00PM

Mar 05, 2011, 04:00PM

May 14, 2011, 08:00PM

NOTICE

The Sandman, Adam G. Sevani

Tangled, 10:45 AT 4:45

Island Love Story

Fiza Kapoor Sells

Mel Tiwol

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Brisk, engaging retelling of cautionary tale

By Nestor U. Torre

HAS BEFORE IT finally opened, we were already keyed up about watching Jack Black's latest fantasy avatar, "Gulliver's Travels"—and thereby host a Little Pet many years now, we've loved the imaginative story about an ordinary man who suddenly finds himself bonded and worshipped as a god when he is shipwrecked on an island of little people.

To us, the literally tall tale was a symbolic touchstone for the subjective economic—and consummation of "size," might, power and pelf. What you think you are definitely doesn't define you in the view of others who evaluate you from their own, similarly but differently subjective perspectives.—Shall, the answer we realize that, the better for all of us.

In fact, we wanted to "build" an inside-Evil lives and what his story means that we even used it as a title for a weekly column we wrote for Inside magazine, edited by our friend, Butch Francisco.

Loopy characters

The solution, titled "Letter from Lilliput," offered our garden-eyed views on the arts and entertainment scene, the dominion of which are sometimes even more exotic and weirder than the loopy characters who inhabit the most fantastic fairy tales!

So, it was with mindful and reluctant heart in hand that we watched "Gulliver's Travels." Would it live up to our informed appreciation of its story's interactive thematic possibilities?

—Happily, yes. The film's retelling of the old tale for today's viewers may sometimes leave us point of sheer comic inventiveness, but its visuals are good, its storytelling is brisk and engaging, and Black's performance would disarm the pessimism of the most-hot-stuffed dyed in the audience.

When Black's Gulliver first finds himself on Lilliput, he becomes the kingdom's slave and worldwide—until he earns its most beloved person. Why and is then swiftly persona-ized most honored guest, a position he craftily exploits and levels up by telling really tall tales about how heroic and powerful he is back on his home "island" of Manhattan, where he's—would you believe, the President!

Land of giants

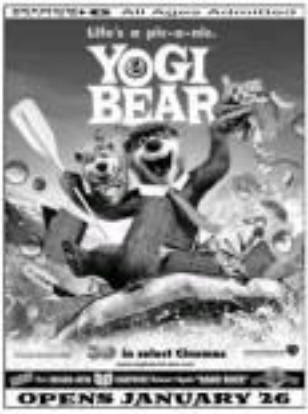
He (by Friends believe him implicitly—until the kingdom's commanding general exposes his lies and he finds himself in a completely different world, the land of giants known as Brobdingnag—where he's now the smallest creature in the land—so small, in fact, that he's made the plaything of a spoiled tot and is imprisoned in her dollhouse!

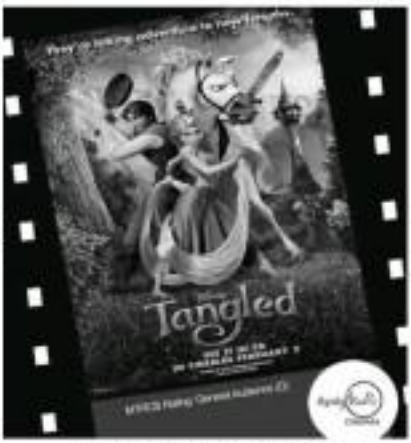
—That does the film deftly dramatize the thematic shift in perspectives that is the old pair's evolutionary contribution to our universal self-knowledge.

On the debit side, the film overreaches in its effort to "modernize" its storytelling by adding a "Transformers"-inspired twist to the final showdown between Gulliver and the many giants he's upstaged.

But, not too much harm is done, because the movie quickly recovers its balance in time for its big finale, by coming up with a bright and bracing anti-war anthem that shows viewers where the film's heart really lives and beats!

BLACK. Dramatic shift in perspectives.





Diminishing . . .

From page E1

there's no way to hollow God-mentioned you/ I remember back in high school...you'd come home with bourbon breath in the air. And when you broke my heart/ Told the school I fell down the stairs/ All I ever wanted was for you to be there for me/ Alone it all you're going to spend the rest of your years. Cos I'm no farmer's daughter anymore, mommy dear."

Honky-tonk sound

"Ridin' With The Radio" and "On The Roll" are impressive for their grinding, honky-tonk sound and fiddle-infused energy. Infectious urbanite and clapping spice up the irresistible arrangement of "Lonely Much Come Around," and, the gospel-tinged "Speak Now" buzz-cut by Wanda Shepard (the gospeller is).

You'll also enjoy the expertly-executed entertaining and humorous trio "Women," which the performer sings with her husband, Brian Wallace. But, Brownstreet's just all edge and soft acetice. The soaringly lyrical "Mine All Mine" demonstrates why she should have been crowned last year's American Idol!

Eastwood. . .

From page E1

life—from a brightly cheerful young woman (Bryce Dallas Howard), whose bubbly surface hides deep trauma, to a widower (Richard Kind) dealing with the death of his wife.

Eastwood has always been an actor's director, which you can sense in how he gives his cast breathing room and space to do their thing onscreen. It results in awkward performances and the sense that they're not so much performing scenes as they are rehearsing them. It's a naturalistic style that's in pursuit in the film's matter-of-fact approach to its subject matter.

Importance

The movie takes on a subject that defines human existence and treats it in a straightforward and simple way with no unnecessary special effects embellishments or any self-consciousness about its importance. Events unfold slowly and deliberately. It's the kind of movie that you have to let your self-slide into as fully appreciate.

"Hereafter" offers no definite answers or big resolutions, either, although all the characters do find some kind of resolution. However, this is only thing, inasmuch as death is the great unknown. One can only speculate, as Eastwood and scriptwriter Peter Morgan do, and they do it with no small amount of grace.

Showcase for memorable character portrayals

By Nestor G. Torre

ROCES, BAUTISTA AND AGBAYANI. "Embarrassment" of thespic riches.

THE MOST prolific filmmaker in town, Adolf Alix Jr., recently added another feather to his already very colorful cap when his latest film, "Perya," was voted Best Indie Feature in the 2010 Sinag Maynila fest.

The prize-drama is currently drawing in some 25 theaters and has also been invited to film festivals abroad, so 2011 could end up as another babyon year for Adolf.

Reasons

He watched "Perya" recently and can share that it should be seen—for a number of splendid reasons. First and foremost, it offers veterans behind-the-scenes and established as to get to know female treasures as they really are, rather than their most stereotyped cinematic depictions of their daily lives.

To achieve this level of realism and performance, Alix and his cowriter, ngmo de Guzman, immersed themselves in the prison subculture, and in fact got much of their montage of that's from the inmates' actual experiences.

In addition, "Perya" should be viewed because it's a showcase for the thespic gifts of many of our best character actresses. Can you imagine all of them in one film—Anita Linda, Gloria Sevilla, Perla Bautista, Teodor Agbayani, Lenia Bautista, Lou Lorenza, supported by younger actresses, Jolly Encarnacion and Lou Veloso? What an "embarrassment" of thespic riches!

It's such a consolation, for instance, to see Rosanna without her usual off-putting over-reaching for attention and controversy, and just focusing on her role and character—and done coming up with one of her best portrayals (even if she has to share valuable screen time with so many standout actresses).

Chance

We're also grateful to the production for giving Perla Bautista a chance to remind us of how good she is as a character actress. Ditto for Gloria Sevilla, Teodor Agbayani, Lenia Lou Veloso and Jolly Encarnacion are unusual role that requires her to remain silent for long stretches of time, as her portrayal is similarly charged with emotional intensity.

It goes without saying that the iconic Anita Linda turns in yet another memorable performance, as a longtime inmate who keeps preparing for her "last day" in detention... which mercifully keeps getting postponed.

Finally, we're grateful for the fact that Alix has dropped his excessively "artistic" previous preference for "elegant" and overly slow storytelling, in favor of a more visceral and dynamic tempo.

This enables him to more organically edit together all of the disparate bits stories that his characters contribute to the emerging story and send of his compelling and insightful cinematic tapestry of life behind bars—but not beyond hope.

Brides' wedding wishes revealed

By Bing M. Carballo

CHAN. Favorite singer for the church ceremony.

AS THE new month, February has become the signal for brides-to-be to start their search for singers and emcees, caterers, wedding gown designers, cake maker, photographer and videographer, make-up artist, reception entertainment, church, prior and many other concerns.

The Wedding Library e-news, in argument of bridal fairs, spends a year in choosing the best wedding suppliers. This year's "Magsi-Magsi Weddings is Ballroom 2011" opens its doors at Shangrila's Mezzanine Halls from Sab. 10 to 28, with more than 300 suppliers for wedding and debuts.

Key to a fair organizer's longevity is the ability to be on top of trends and knowing what the brides are looking for. So, the Wedding Library sent emails to eligible ones and seven with questions that could help them understand their choices.

A hundred people responded, and their answers reveal the tastes and preferences of this sector of society who would soon be settling down.

The favorite choice of singer for the church ceremony is Jose Mari Chan. The choice of make-up artist was a surprise: Val Silburn, a 30-year veteran known for simple, sophisticated hair and make-up. For the entrench face and body makeover, Bobi was the top choice. The choice of luxury mean venue? Boats or a European cruise.

When are the married celebrities people look up to? Ago Medjaldi and Charlene Gonzales. The respondents' dream bridesmaid? Read Pilo as Gretchen Ramos.

From these choices, one reading of today's bride is that she is still conservative and budget-conscious, regards the ceremony as romantic, looks up to married icons who are responsible and grounded, and chooses romantic ideas to cap the ceremony.

FREEST needs to his Back during Mass.

Discovering Itbayat

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarro

POPI LAGUROS is a participant of my photo safari, describes Batanes as a place where nature is "untouched and magnificent," and where people are genuinely warm. To get there, there is your first stop...then, Itabayat.

But...don't leave Batanes until you've seen Itbayat, the farthest of the province's three islands. There, the feeling of communion is a authentic, and its residents look up to their town elders. Money is rarely exchanged.

Stone houses

According to Wikipedia, Itbayat has a population of 3,000 people in 719 households. Batanes' population is just over 15,000. There are more houses than the cliffs than ancient houses used to still home, in Itbayat's most remarkable houses like the ones in Ivana.

Heralded by bells heard from every corner of the island, Mass is attended by everyone and relished in the small Dominican parish church, where men are seated on the left side, women are on the right, and children in the aisle. It's celebrated in Spanish by a priest who looks like a penguin.

Indeed, you haven't seen the real Batanes until you've been to Itbayat.

* * *

Join our Batanes Photo Safari on Feb. 10-25, Feb. 25-Mar 10 or Mar 10-25. Batanes Itbayat will be on April 19-28 and May 6-9. E-mail mandynavarro@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

Malicious gossip as an excuse . . .

From page E1

way still bound by censorship. The networks then were careful about what they presented, and programs with mature themes had no place on primetime. Nowadays, they're more daring and irresponsible, with R-rated shows being positioned to sell sex. Money can now watch something that isn't appropriate to them!"

"I also agree with a previous item in this section about how informal (and improper) our TV newscasters have become. Instead of delivering the news objectively, anchors can now give their personal reactions to issues.

"Why don't they just go editorial segment in the program, instead? Also, newscasters look like cookouts of high tech electronic tablets and notebooks. Reading commercials from would interfere with the purpose of projecting viewers' sentiment in a manner of previous time, because five or six reactions don't substantially represent the public's opinion."

Foul language

Steven Rebarrat, teacher, also has an interesting observation: "TV's 'fuzzy' bugs about being fearless in dishing out show biz news. However, I am dismayed at how some of its hosts can be malicious and insulting when criticizing personalities. While they're entitled to their opinion, why aren't they censored for the way they humiliate people using foul language?

"Isn't there a more constructive way of conveying bad behavior? They have the many kinds of put labels on any physical imperfections, gender orientation, etc. Yet, they have the insensitivity to say they're just having fun—at the expense of people's reputations?! Have we stooped this low for 'entertainment'?

Arrogance

"Who's big turn-off is the extravagance of some hosts who use colorful language to say that someone is ugly, chubby or fats, while they themselves are fat from being the epitome of

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Showcase for memorable character portrayals /E4

SATURDAY Special

Masters of reinvention

By Nestor U. Torre

MOST STARS who've made it big in show business take their success for granted until, get into a rut—but, Sharon Cuneta, Nicky Perezcel and a few others are made of more proactive and newer stuff. They sure don't rest on their laurels—which helps explain why they've kept their careers flying high longer than most of their contemporaries.

Sharon's latest self-renewing and career-enhancing gambit is her current campaign to lose a lot of weight and get back to "fighting" trim. At first, the blogosphere appeared to resist the challenge to become less than "mega" in the physical sense.

Battle of the bulge

But, we keys harping on it, even at the risk of earning her ire, because she'd already won the battle of the bulge once before, so we knew she could do it again. Besides, it was good for her health and career—so, she had to give it another go.

Well, Sharon has done exactly that—and, being Sharon, she's done it in a big, public way with the help of Marie Femez, which has some out with sole proudly announcing Sharon's loss of "more than 20 lbs and 23 inches all over" (and still counting).

It's also instructive that Sharon's ongoing battle of the bulge would dovetail quite nicely into one of her new TV shows set to debut this year, which has a weight loss format. —I don't that he leaving your sofa and eating it, too (celebrate the cough)?

What's great about Sharon's current mega-creative gambit is their hoped-for effect, not just on herself, but also on the many thousands of people who watch her shows. Taking their cue from her enlightened example, they could also decide to lose weight and opt for a healthier lifestyle. —Everybody wins!

Options

For his part, Nicky Perezcel has sort of hit a glass ceiling in his stellar career, so he's been trying to vary his options by exploring other creative possibilities as a singer and indie-actor producer.

His indie gambits haven't come off all that well, but his musical initiatives by way of recordings, concerts, performances for Filipino fans abroad, etc., have fared better.

Nicky's best bets in this regard is his devotion to, he says, loved by the Ryan Cayabyab in his concert this Valentine's Day at the PICC.

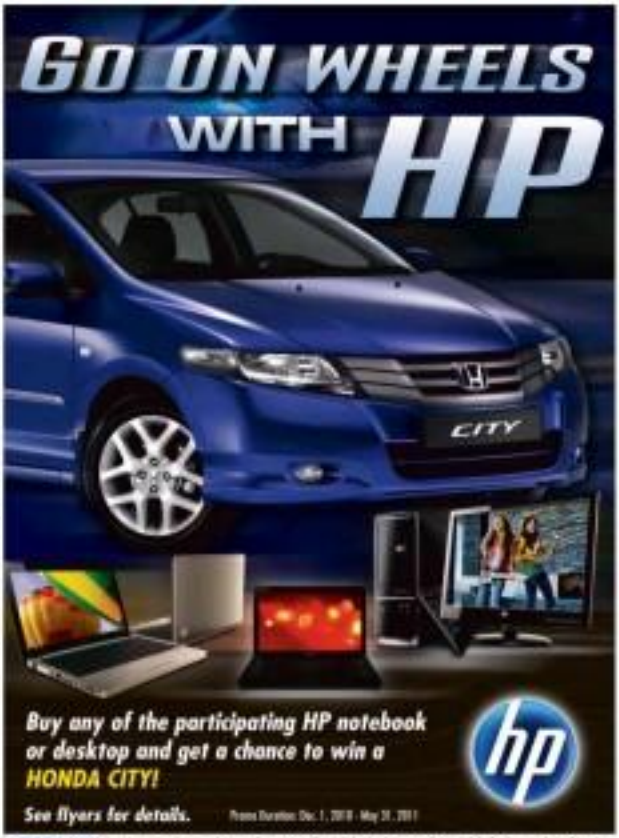
We mean that the first-time collaboration will lead to other learning opportunities for the actor-singer. He very wise for him to be mentored by Ryan in music should also motivate Nicky to go out of his way to learn from top artists in other areas of performance.

Glass ceiling

With their antics and signature gambits, Pinky could Read, to learn how to break through that considerable glass ceiling that's kept him from finding his true worth as a performing artist, after more than a decade of bartender stardom.

The mere fact that he's now known as "Papa Pinky" indicates how eminently predictable his portrayals have become, after a series of risible and controversy-ridden misfires.

It's time to break out and break through for Pinky (my goodbye to the "Papa"), and only by top directors like Ryan Cayabyab can help him succeed!



AM/FM

Dr. Love speaks from experience

BANAG: His sincerity and openness endear him to his listeners.

By Ruvald G. Mangubat

DAY SHOW hosts, especially those who dispense advice, can learn from Bro. Jun Banag, DZ-Isan of 648AM's "The Dr Love Radio Show," aired weekdays from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight. He gives sound and practical advice on love and family matters, doesn't talk down to his listeners, and speaks with the voice of experience.

He've been listening to Bro. Jun for sometime now and understand why he has many fans. More than his soothing, modulated voice, it's his sincerity and openness that endear him to his listeners. He doesn't take it right to his heart.

In fact, he uses his own misfortune and incidents in his home life point that they can be learned and can help to become better people. And, while he is perceived as an authority in counseling, he readily admits he doesn't have the answers to all of his callers' questions.

Responsibility

Domestic problems seem to be the bulk of his listeners' woes. In a handy housewife who left abandoned by her children when they all began working, Bro. Jun said, "Your responsibility at a person is to love and take care of your children. Don't expect them to pay you back."

To a guilt ridden separated husband who abandoned he had their first child started and were ed his wife back, he advised: "Before you think of winning her back, you and your wife have to realize that you have committed a grave sin. Work on that first."

And, to a confused mother who didn't answer if she would accept a job offer abroad and leave her 6-month-old baby with her parents, Dr. Love urged, "Don't leave. It's crucial for your child to grow up with good memories of the care of you together. That's more important than earning a lot of money abroad."

Beyond self-gratification

RECENTLY, WE met a young girl who was obsessed with caring. While holding food in her hand, she still begged for more! She needs to see beyond self-gratification. Some quotes from Stella Bloomfield to explain her situation.

"Does the existence of those words cannot satisfy a person whose senses are sincere-willed."

"Because of ignorance, a deer cannot see the sense within a well covered by grass—so, it seeks water elsewhere. Similarly, a living entity covered by a material body doesn't find happiness within himself—he seeks happiness outside."

"The result of a person who is disturbed by thirst and hunger are readily satisfied when he eats. Similarly, if he becomes angry that anger is satisfied by chastisement. But, an ignorant of transcendental self is greedy person."

"With determination, a person should give up his lusty desires for sense gratification. By giving up envy, he conquers anger. By understanding the disadvantages of hankering wealth, he forgets greed. And, by destroying the truth, he gives up fear."

LOTUS POND

R. Valenciano and S. Bhanwark

Sensus

"A self-satisfied person is happy even without any drinking water. However, someone who's dying of thirst, no matter how much he wants and greatly must accept the position of a household dog to satisfy his senses."

"The result of a person who is disturbed by thirst and hunger are readily satisfied when he eats. Similarly, if he becomes angry that anger is satisfied by chastisement. But, an ignorant of transcendental self is greedy person."

"With determination, a person should give up his lusty desires for sense gratification. By giving up envy, he conquers anger. By understanding the disadvantages of hankering wealth, he forgets greed. And, by destroying the truth, he gives up fear."

Actor reveals ...

From page F1

would never say hello on the phone because the 'H' wouldn't come out. So, he would say, 'Bua is Dean'. She was shocked to no-del lived in a restaurant because you can't get the 'H' out—so you get fish, instead. You're not living your own life. You have to make choices that aren't you or all."

Asked if he has found his own voice at age 50, Colby, who's married to Livia Ging, replied, "I'm not sure. I'm still searching, quite frankly. Not really. But, I'm very aware of being in a different place in my life than I was in the past. I'm very aware that life is cyclical. You're constantly losing battles you thought you'd win. The good things in life have to exist themselves, and you have to create them. You have relationships with your friends, children and wife are not things that just exist. This movie's story reflects that. This isn't a relationship in rehab, they [the king and Lionel] gain each other's trust, and it stays there. They have it. Find it, then there's another space—and they have to find it again."

"I find that, being the age that I am, the work I'm getting involved in is far more interesting than it's ever been," he added. "I am now playing people with a past, not just the anxieties of youth and having a past until, hopefully, a far age. It puts you in an interesting space, because you're in the middle of the narrative. I'm far more likely to play a grieving father, for instance. I'm dealing with characters who experience loss and regret, who have given up on life, then realize that they shouldn't give up."

E-mail: rmangubat_17483@yahoo.com.

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THE GREEN HORNET / RED
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
THE GREEN HORNET (in 3D) / GF
1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10, 11:50
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS / GF
1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 7:50, 10:00
THE GREEN HORNET (in 3D) / RED
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
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MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
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Compromises ease burden of piracy

By Nestor U. Torre

ARE NOTED some significant developments in the film industry here this year, we recently shocked with some friends and colleagues who are "piracy experts" because they've been promoting "the stuff" for years. Yes, they even limited our intrigued brandy, perceptible changes have altered the local piracy landscape of late.

For instance, pirated copies of movies, especially local productions, used to be on sale much earlier than they are now. Sometimes, in fact, they were "anticipated" the pirated films' opening dates!

Those days, however, the no longer seems to be the case: Most of the time, a week or two passes before the pirated discs appear on the barghaus for the delectation of viewers who want to watch new movies on the cheap—and on the cuss.

NICKETTE Pressa it can be done.

Accommodation

What's going on here? Our "experts" accurate that an accommodation, a compromise, has been worked out with the pirates for the movies' producers to enable victory first before the pirates exact their pound of cinematic flesh.

That may not sound like a great solution to the piracy problem, but some producers may have "realistically" come to the conclusion that 80 to 90 percent of legit income is better than 20 percent or, nothing at all.

As for the pirates, the suspected compromise may also be acceptable to them, because it gives them some income, while sparing them the stress and unnecessary staying a quicking away from the long arm of the law.

A strange confluence of benevolent cocktails—control and? But wonder lord. Killers have been known to inhabit and inhabit the same burning bed in the steamy bordellos of down-lustered.

Some experts suppose that a few all, too-practical producers have even been playing the "pirate law" game—meaning, they've come up with "bogus" and inexpensive editions of their own productions. But, the notion has been roundly denied by one and all, so it remains—well, just a thought.

Development

Another recent development is some people's "excitement" over that piracy isn't "all bad." —Idol? Pirill, for one thing (they point out), unpirated film copies used to be priced much too much before.

But, after the picture dramatically lowed the price down, legit producers decided to make a smaller profit and

Stage...

From page F4

from the slide and dissonance line to shrieks; I does wanted dancing musicals and plays for Tandem Sig nos (Ph), Sigma Sims and the UP Speech Associations.

In 2005, Freddie, one star as the crafty Sir George Grubb in George Bernard Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession," with Rapers, Ray Ilosh de Peralta, Pinky Signo Bernales, George Sison and Jeanne.

Photograph

After the production's final performance, Freddie insisted that a picture of him with the cast and crew be taken. I'm glad he did, because in the photograph were three (three) National Artists, along with a former National Artist for Theater (Freddie) were (co-)members of the stage crews who would eventually become National Artists for Cinema: Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal!

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Actor reveals demands of Golden Globe-winning performance

COLIN FIRTH triumphs with his portrayal of King George VI.

LOS ANGELES—In the end, the daily headache and unsteadiness of his left arm while he was filming "The King's Speech" were worth it. Colin Firth recently won the Golden Globe Best Actor-Drama award for his portrayal of King George VI and how he battled stuttering at a crucial time in World War II-era Britain.

In our interview, Colin revealed the physical challenges he endured to effectively portray the monarch with the debilitating speech impediment. Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter, both wonderful as an unorthodox speech therapist, Lionel Logue, and Queen Elizabeth, respectively, helped the king overcome stuttering so he could deliver crucial speeches, inspire his people and unite them in battle. Colin is eloquent in his rendition across-the-board mastering characters' accents and stately before delivering speeches in the film dictated by Tom Hooper.

"It's a bizarre paradox of acting," said Colin of the challenges of his role. "In order to portray a stammering character, you have to learn to stammer, then you have to be a man learning not to stammer. To play someone who's sad, you have to learn to be sad, then you have to play someone trying not to be sad. You make the journey towards. You have to make it back out again. All I was interested in showing was a man trying not to stammer. I didn't want to show you a man trying or learning to overcome."

He stressed, "The only thing that the audience must see is the struggle to climb out of those terrible silences that must had like clay has a thousand years. Whatever psychological and physical tricks I employed, I'd rather not reveal. They're personal and were physically very strenuous. I finished the day with headaches. They had a very bizarre effect on my left arm. It became semi-paralyzed sometimes, and numb. I had no idea what I was doing to make that happen. Certainly, after we recorded the long speech at the end, the symptoms lasted for several days. I remember asking the nurse, 'Was mine that bad?' 'You might have pinched a nerve.'"

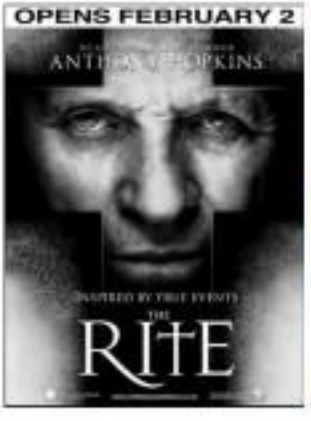
Colin, whose Golden Globe win mystifies his position as the front-runner to the Oscar Best Actor race, has portrayed interesting characters before. "The King's Speech," "I played one in 'A Month in the Country' in 1987," he recalled. "I played somebody who comes back from the First World War. Then, I did 'Three Days of Rain,' a play by Richard Greenberg in London in 2000. I had a character with a moustache, as well. They were completely different. Where I first gave a shallow glance at this film's script, I thought, I've done moustaching before, in hopefully, I could just pause that on and concentrate on everything else.

Vigilant

"But, as it turned out, I had to start from scratch. There were a lot of dangers. It could slide into pastiche. It's been used for comedy in the past—Basil Fawlty stammer. That might be, I certainly didn't want this to be comical. Pace and timing? That's very difficult to negotiate. Thank goodness, my director was incredibly vigilant about that, because you've only got 90 minutes to tell a story in a film. You're playing moments who labor about I've moments to speak! It's going to affect the pace."

Colin also got help from his mates, who's a voice coach, and the film's writer, David Seidler. He explained, "He gave me some interesting advice. David overcame a stammer, as well, and he gave me prepared knights two when it's like trying to negotiate around it. It's heartbreaking. He said he

ACTOR P17



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

NOW SHOWING

Irreverent superhero flick defies convention

By Rito P. Bello

IF YOUR notion of a superhero is someone who is irresistible yet vulnerable (Spider-Man), alternately flirtatious and brooding (Batman, Iron Man), and has a heart of gold (Superman), watching Michel Gondry's irreverent take on the superhero movie might need some getting used to—because first bold title "The Green Hornet" (Drift Project) is one of the shows.

After the grisly murder of his father (Tom Wilkinson), Britt Reid (Seth Rogen) is left reeling from the latest known helpful. And, though his heart isn't so—which isn't synonymous among brand, rich brats—the young Reid goes through the motions of doing what mature adults are supposedly do: find his calling in life.

(However, when he meets Kato (the charismatic Jay Chou), his father's former mechanic cum coffeemaker, the bored Reid suddenly finds an exhilarating diversion that allows him to live out his childhood fantasy of playing the hero's sidekick. Inspired by him, Reid and Kato unleash the heady thrill of fighting with Kato's otherworldly high-tech gadgets (gas gun, bullet-proof automobile, etc.).

ROGEN AND CHOU. Review: The Green Hornet and his sidekick

Rich kid

Suddenly, life is one big, adrenaline-pumped party for the good-for-nothing rich kid. What could be better than having someone else do the dirty work—then getting all the credit (and admiration) for it? Now, if Britt can only get his brilliant but abusive executive secretary, Lenore Case (Cameron Diaz), to reciprocate his feelings for her, he should be all set to ride into the happily ever after sunset, right?

Unfortunately, you can't play hero and step on people's toes—and not have them waiting it on you—through the entire LA crime lord, Chudnofsky (Christoph Waltz), came out to the more of a pain than a nuisance. Reid's only real friend is Kato, the mastermind behind the technological wizardry that makes the Green Hornet's car, weapons and other gadgets possible.

Britt's father's newspaper, the Daily Sentinel, is on the verge of bankruptcy, and Britt's mother (Edward Furlong) is a drunk. Britt's only friend is Kato, the mastermind behind the technological wizardry that makes the Green Hornet's car, weapons and other gadgets possible.

Special effects

It's also this cheeky irreverence and deliciously mocking "superheroism" that makes the movie uniquely entertaining—it defies superhero conventions and makes the viewer/figure less of an immortal and more of a flawed individual who wants to live his life on his own terms. And that's fine. That's what makes the movie entertaining—we can go with the flow and enjoy the gags. Chou's high-flying, frame-stunning avatars, and the production's impressive special effects.

Some quibbles: While loosely likes it a little too long in the tooth to be playing the grudging "protector" of Rogen's, who's 10 years his junior. And, half the time, you expect the dashing Chou to switch roles with his partner.

It's likewise hard to suspend disbelief that the movie's hefty leading man is dashing, given the physical improvements of Britt Reid's far-from-Bubby character (an age of 1970's "Monster Jubilant" logo popping into our mind, no kidding). But, you can't keep using "irreverence" and "comedic reinvention" as excuses for every thing that's not right about a film.—Sony's heroes are genuinely "super," after all!

A THOUSAND WORDS

Stage play gathered 3 future National Artists

By Bebs Cervantes

I SHOOTED with the El Oramum Club in 1956. In my first year I was cast in "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden" and "Murder in The Cathedral."

The following year, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero (as Freddie) went to observe theatre in the Cleveland Playhouse as a Rockefeller grantee. Isabel "Behang" Avella Soriano took over the reins of the drama club. We loved her! She directed "Hot Nocturnal," a musical have an electoral malpractice written by Joe Bay Jr. and Jules Higuay, with music by Rosendo Santos.

Calypso beat

It was a fun production that exploited Harry Belafonte's calypso beat, which had Manila rocking then. With us in the cast were Joe and Alice Fernandez, Jeanne and Mary Gamboa, Angie Gillan, Pinky Bigas, Bob Lacsamana, Atty. de Leon, Princess Bengzon-Soriano, Boy Dominguez, Nestor Trinidad, Baby Gan Miguel and Gus Evangelista.

Behang encouraged some of us to direct scenes from different plays for an experimental show called "Scene Nine." So, I directed a scene from "My Johnny," starring my friend, late Dimitka, an Enrique Fadero.

When Freddie returned from the US, the students of the club told him that our cohort scene, but this time should be cast in the future productions. Instead, he axed almost, which prompted me to quit as "Stephen Bat," songs

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THE AUTHOR (center back), with Bernal (left), Brenda (middle, in white T-shirt) and Guerrero (right).